

the chronicle

Fan's 400-mile journey to see 60s pop legend
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New beer, but it's just for the one night only
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Drunken friends jailed after late-night attack on young couple

TWO DUDLEY men have been jailed for a total of five years after being found guilty of robbing a couple after a night out in Stourbridge. The female victim was also sexually assaulted.

Liam Morris, aged 24, from Netherton, and Dylan Cooknell, 23, from Brierley Hill, were found guilty following a trial at Wolverhampton Crown Court, where they appeared again for sentencing on Friday.

Both men were found guilty of robbery and causing actual bodily harm, with Morris also convicted of the additional charge of sexual

assault against the 23-year-old victim. Morris was jailed for three years and Cooknell two and a half years.

The pair had been on a night out and were drunk when they approached a young couple on High Street at around 1.30am on May Bank Holiday Monday last year.

The victim and her boyfriend were making their way home after also enjoying a night out in the town centre, when they got involved in an exchange of words with Morris and Cooknell.

They chased the couple from the High Street

and down an alleyway that leads to the ring road, where they punched both the girl and her boyfriend, before pushing the girl to the floor when Morris sexually assaulted her. They then grabbed her handbag and ran off along the alley.

Detective constable Dan Bailey, from Dudley CID, investigated the crime. He said after the sentencing: "We are satisfied with the result at court, and hope that the sentences these men have received helps the young woman and her partner come to terms with their ordeal. Both

these men, prior to committing this awful crime, had barely come to police attention before, and Cooknell in particular was of previous good character. However, at the time of attacking this couple both were very drunk and we can only assume that their intoxication may have fuelled the crime."

"Regardless of motive, the attack left the couple with both physical injuries and emotional scars."

He said violence would not be tolerated and areas of night-time economy across the borough would be proactively policed.

ESCAPE AS ROCK HURLED AT TRAM

A driver narrowly escaped serious injury after a rock was hurled at the windscreens of a gas-powered tram, causing the glass to shatter.

Yobs struck as the light railcar, better known as the Parry People Mover, was moving between Stourbridge's Town and Junction stations, police revealed.

Shards of glass were sent flying into the cab, cutting the driver, as the rock shattered the windscreens. The missile was thrown from a bridge above Junction Road and left the People Mover driver badly shaken.

Drugs gang is broken up

A MAJOR West Midland gang which dealt in drugs nationwide using highly sophisticated methods to go undetected has been smashed.

Some 23 members of the vast network, including criminals from Stourbridge, Dudley, Walsall and Staffordshire, have now been sentenced over the huge operation.

Heroin

A two-year investigation revealed that the gang dealt nationwide in cocaine, amphetamines, ecstasy, heroin and cannabis, carrying out transactions with undetected planning.

Officers have also recovered class A drugs with an estimated street value of £30,000, and class C drugs worth about £150,000.

Bosses from Parry People Movers Ltd, which owns the tram, said the driver was lucky not to have suffered more serious injuries.

He was also treated for shock after the attack, which happened on 9pm on Saturday.

Owner John Parry said: "These actions are wickedly negligent of people's safety and I just cannot understand why someone would do this."

"The driver has, effectively, cheated death or blindness. It really is that serious and we are treating the incident accordingly."

DASHBOARD

The driver was looking at the dashboard when the rock struck, so many of the shards missed his eyes, Mr Parry said.

The railcar was immediately closed and a bus service set up by London Midland to transport passengers between the two stations.

It remained closed until Sunday morning when a replacement car was put in place and the damaged one taken away for repairs.

An investigation has now been launched by the British Transport Police, with officers studying CCTV images to try to identify the culprits.

It is the second time in as many weeks that stones have been thrown at the railcar. There have also been a number of incidents in recent weeks where plastic bin lids have been balanced on the railcars.

On one occasion drugs were stashed in a hollowed-out loaf of bread. Police also recovered drugs from extractor fans above cookers, and seized equipment used for the production of drugs.

There were also cannabis factories operating within the gang's network.

The covert police investigation, Operation Variation, began in April 2009 and culminated last week when the last three gang members were sentenced.

Detectives have seized more than £80,000 in cash and restrained £400,000 worth of assets, pending financial investigation.

Officers have also recovered class A drugs with an estimated street value of £30,000, and class C drugs worth about £150,000.



Engineer Gary Picken in the Parry People Mover damaged in the attack

Nine are hurt as two fires break out

NINE PEOPLE including five children were taken to hospital after two separate fires in Lye and Dudley on the same night.

The youngsters breathed in smoke from a blazing bin.

The fire broke out in the trolley bin at a block of flats in Claycroft Place in Lye, sending smoke billowing up a waste disposal chute just after 6pm on Monday.

Four girls and a boy, all aged between six months and 12 years, were taken to hospital along with three of their mothers and one father.

And in the early hours of Tuesday, shortly after 3am, a fire started at the Hope Tavern pub in Cinder Bank, Netherton, after arsonists broke a window and threw a burning object inside.

Investigation

West Midlands Police spokesman Catherine Hickman said an investigation had been launched into the pub fire.

"A window had been broken at the scene. The pub was empty at the time of the incident."

"Police are continuing to make enquiries into the fire and urge anyone with information to contact Dudley Police," she added.

Two crews from Cradley Heath battled flames for around two hours. An area of the bar, around 10ft wide, was badly burned.

Housing may force firms out

UP TO five companies could be forced to move under plans to build more than 200 homes on valuable industrial land in Stourbridge.

Under plans unveiled by Halesowen-based Revelan Group Plc, industrial units at Sunrise Business Park in Wollaston High Street and nearby land off Lowndes Road and Bradley Road would be replaced by up to 215 two-and three-storey homes.

Design statements show up to 80 homes on land off Lowndes Road and Bradley Road, where businesses including The Fitness Factory and GFP Tools Ltd are based. Fitness Factory manager Graham Webster confirmed he would have to relocate while Glenn Faulkner of GFP Tools said it was now on a one-month rolling lease. Revelan declined to comment.

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Fan's 400-mile trip to see PJ



Ron Tenant with PJ Proby in the garden of the singer's house, "Little California", near Evesham

PJ Proby
on stage
giving his
interpretation
of
Elvis
Presley
songs



By Sarah Hazelwood

s.hazelwood@expressandstar.co.uk

A FORMER Midlander now living in Belgium is making a 400-mile trip to be reunited with a pop legend.

Ron Tenant, who moved from Birmingham more than 30 years ago, returns every couple of months to see PJ Proby strut his stuff on stage.

On Friday March 11, Stourbridge Town Hall will host One Night of Elvis starring Lee "Memphis" King and his orchestra and singers with special guest PJ Proby, original star of Elvis the Musical.

While Ron is a frequent traveller to watch the star, this will be just the second time that he and his family have returned to England together since 1996.

Sixty-three-year-old Ron has been a fan of Proby across four decades, after first meeting the one-time hellraiser in Bolton back in the 1980s.

Ron said: "I am a huge fan of PJ and have been for many years. In my eyes he is a world star and I have got so much



Lee 'Memphis' King
on stage as Presley

memorabilia from over the years to remember him by. I absolutely love the man and his music – he could easily have been as big as Elvis."

"His unique personality and rare talent combined make him a world star. He is a perfectionist and this is very clear in his performances, they are always flawless."

"After some setbacks throughout his life he has always bounced back, bigger and better. There aren't many like him around. He's a real crowd pleaser."

Proby, real name James Marcus

Smith, is originally from Texas, but has lived at the home near Evesham he calls "Little California" for many years.

Now aged 72, the music marvel compiled several demo discs for some of Elvis' biggest hits. He was a major star of the 60s with a string of hits including Hold Me, Somewhere and Maria.

But the stage appearances of Proby – great-grandson of outlaw John Wesley Hardin – attracted controversy in those more sedate times, particularly when his trousers split, and he was effectively banned.

For tickets and details, contact the Stourbridge Town Hall box office on 01384 812812.

Ron Tenant with just some of the items in his extensive collection of memorabilia



PJ Proby in Britain during the mid-sixties

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Shock as pub closes and goes up for sale

MYSTERY surrounds a popular Stourbridge pub which has suddenly shut its doors without warning and been put up for sale by its owners.

The Broadway in Norton, which has played host to live music performances over the past year, is on the market for £345,000 and its closure has left residents baffled.

Musician Bobby Johnson, who played with his Gentle Jazz band at the venue last month and had been hoping to set up a regular jazz night, said it came out of the blue. "It's a shame because I thought we would make it a regular event and it's a good place to play at," said the 80-year-old.

Mr Johnson said he believed last orders had been called at the venue around two weeks ago. "Pubs are closing left, right and centre at the moment. It is sadly a sign of the times," he added.

Retired gas works engineer, Peter Beardmore, aged 58, who lives near the pub, said: "It's sad because it has always been there and is part of the community."

"I hope it can continue as a pub because I would hate to see it knocked down so someone can build houses, which seem to be the norm at the moment."

"Pubs just don't seem to be able to stay open these days and it's a British tradition, which is being lost."

Market

Paul Reilly, from estate agents Christie & Co, confirmed the pub had "just" gone on the market. It is being marketed as having "some potential to develop the site for residential use or retail subject to planning".

It is the latest in a long line of pubs to close across the borough. Earlier this month, the Thorns in Quarry Bank shut its doors and in January the Mount Pleasant in Kingswinford closed leaving 25 workers out of a job.

No-one from the Broadway pub was available to comment.

The phone number for the business is no longer operational.

Teacher is suspended over texts

A SUPPLY teacher who struck up an "inappropriate" text relationship with a male pupil at a Stourbridge school has been suspended from teaching for a year.

The General Teaching Council of England ruled that Keith Gardner, a former supply teacher at Redhill School in Junction Road, was guilty of unacceptable professional conduct.

A conduct hearing in Birmingham was told he had exchanged a series of text messages of an "unacceptable" nature with the boy while working there from July 2007 and July 2008.

Concern

Among the texts was one which read: "Ope ur mom dnt kno what I am textin!!", which the council said it considered of particular concern as it showed that Gardner realised his behaviour was not appropriate.

Gardner admitted exchanging the messages but denied any wrongdoing, telling investigators he considered it an "innocent event".

In the official verdict, released after the private hearing, council chairman Christine Green said he had shown no insight or remorse.

Daffodil Dream at local

A SPECIAL beer has been brewed for a Black Country pub's latest fund-raising night of raffles, waxings and headshaving.

Daffodil Dream will go on sale at the Robin Hood in Collis Street, Stourbridge tomorrow (March 4) for one evening only.

Just one barrel has been made – but it is hoped the limited edition brew will pull in the punters to generate cash for Marie Curie Cancer Care.

Pub manager Phil Guy and cellarman Alan Isitt will get their bottoms waxed. They are also hoping someone will volunteer to have their head shaved.

Barbeque

A raffle and barbeque will be held with all proceeds going to the charity.

Mr Guy said: "I don't mind too much – I will prefer it to getting my legs waxed. It's all for a good cause anyway."

A previous event to coincide with Stourbridge Town FC's match against Walsall raised £240 thanks to sales of another limited edition beer called Hackett's Heroes.

Daffodil Dream has been produced by the Salopian Brewery in Shropshire.



Barmaid Tracy Merridith from Stourbridge is seen getting ready for a charity fundraising day when the Robin Hood will have a special charity beer on tap

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Protests mount on bike park plan

AT LEAST 500 people have now objected to plans for an electric bike park at a beauty spot in Kinver.

A protest group set up to fight the development has delivered 3,000 campaign leaflets to local homes.

The park, the first of its kind in the country, would be built on land within a couple of miles of Kinver Edge but has been branded an "environmental disaster" by campaigners.

A public consultation period has ended and residents have been bombarding the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol with letters and emails.

Plans were rejected by South Staffordshire District Council last August but landowner Bathams brewery has appealed.

Wildlife

Residents including a professor of botany and a wildlife photographer have combined to fight the plans for Compton Worwood Farm, Beacon Lane. They now have to wait up to two months for a decision.

The campaign group has been run by five residents including Chris Knott. He said: "We've been simply astounded by the depth of realisation."

Objections have been lodged by Friends of the Earth and the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust.

But brewery owner Tim Batham said: "Electric bikes make no noise, create no emissions and cause no pollution."

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Vandalism of £30,000 to dry dock

Scan is raising awareness



VANDALS have caused £30,000 of damage to a historic canal dry dock near the Stourbridge Bonded Warehouse.

It is the second attack in a year at the disused listed dry dock site around a quarter of a mile along Stourbridge Canal from the Bonded Warehouse, Canal Street.

The dock, used to make repairs to boats on a dry platform, had been bricked up and secured by British Waterways after vandalism last July. But vandals have smashed bricks out of the wall, allowing water to drain into the dock, which is in a conservation area next to derelict land earmarked for a new housing development by Quadrant Land Partnership.

Stourbridge Navigation Trust manages the nearby Bonded Warehouse for British Waterways.

It has complained about continued vandalism along the stretch of waterway.

Trust director Chris Dyche said the canal and nearby development land had become a magnet for vandalism, especially over the last few weeks.

"They've somehow managed to punch holes in the wall," he said. "They don't realise there is a huge volume of water behind the wall in the canal."

The Blackcountryman trip boat operates along the Stourbridge canal from its base at the Bonded Warehouse, off Canal Street.

Former Hillcrest School and Community College pupil Tom Downing, aged 18, is the new captain after taking over from retiring operator Mick Bourne.

Highlights of this year's programme include the Comic Cuts season with Black Country legend Alan "Aynuk" Smith on May 13 and June 3.

For more details call 01384 375912 or 07889 908090.

Dangerous

Suzannah Atkey from British Waterways said: "It is very dangerous for the people who are doing this."

"Sadly it happens quite often along the Stourbridge Canal and the police are aware of the problems."

Pc Lucy Skinner from the Wollaston and Stourbridge Town neighbourhood team said: "The damage is so severe that holes in the wall are starting to show, causing canal water to leak through the wall out onto to the dry dock, which is now damaging the surrounding land."

Police are asking witnesses or anyone with information to call the Wollaston and Stourbridge Town team on 0345 113 5000, extension 7909 6732, or all Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Yobs targeted the canal in 2008, releasing a lock on Stourbridge Canal which allowed water to drain from a section next to Wordsley's Red House Glass Cone.

ABOUT 100 Stourbridge pupils were today given a heart screening scan as part of a charity event raising awareness of sudden death syndrome.

Pupils at Old Swinford Hospital School, Heath Lane, went to their medical centre for a 10-minute examination, including an ECG. Anyone with an abnormal reading will be invited to have a full cardiac evaluation. The event was organised by the school catering manager Peter Teale, who lost daughter Zoe at the age of 23.

Since her death in 2009, he, wife Julie, and daughter Meghan, have raised £33,000 for the Cardiac Risk in the Young charity, which has helped cardiac testing sessions for young people in the Black Country.

Zoe, a fitness instructor for Fitness First, Wednesbury, helped fundraise for the British Heart Foundation before her death.

Posties report hundreds of dog attacks on the rounds

POSTMEN have reported more than 550 attacks by dogs on mail rounds in the West Midlands and Staffordshire in the past three years.

Staff have been bitten and left with cuts and bruises as a result of aggressive animals. Letters have been sent out to owners of the pets involved in the attacks, and bosses at Royal Mail have warned staff where dangerous dogs live.

Figures released under the Freedom of Information Act show 563 attacks have been reported from 2008 until last week.

They included 215 in the B postcode which covers Birmingham and Sandwell; 63 in the Dudley and Kidderminster postcode area; 149 in the ST postcode area covering Stafford and Stoke-on-Trent;

69 in the WS area which covers Cannock and Walsall and 69 in the WV postcode, which covers Wolverhampton.

Steve Reid, branch secretary of the Communication Workers Union Birmingham and District branch, said: "It is a serious issue. We have seen some horrific injuries."

Hand

"It is the responsibility of members of the public to make sure their animals do not attack anyone – postmen, milkmen, anyone."

Last incidents reported this year include one in the Wolverhampton area where a member of staff was bitten on the left hand, and one in Dudley in which a worker has been bitten on the right leg.

Royal Mail spokesman Daniel Tulip said: "We take the safety of our staff very seriously. Although most dog attacks, and attacks by other animals, are beyond our control Royal Mail, as a responsible employer, provides detailed and updated advice to its entire staff via our intranet and other communications methods."

"While Royal Mail has a legal commitment to deliver to all addresses, it also has a duty to reduce the risks and prevent injury to our people," added Mr Tulip.

"We ask our people to report every attack or incident to a manager."

"All reported incidents are investigated by the manager, who will often involve the local council dog warden."

Green shoots as plans to re-open pub are unveiled

A LANDMARK Dudley pub may re-open with a new micro-brewery, paving the way for a bowling club to return to its former home.

The Woodman Inn, Brockmoor, would undergo an extensive refurbishment under the proposals.

It is hoped the work will persuade players who used to be based at the pub in Ley's Road to return to the bowling green.

The pub had been home to the Woodman Brockmoor Bowling Club for more than 40 years before members were forced to move out when the venue shut its doors after a drop in trade in April 2008.

Both the building and the bowling green have become a magnet for vandalism and the site is overgrown.

But now a planning application has been submitted to Dudley Council by Stourbridge-based Eclipse Architecture to re-open the pub and create a micro-brewery.

Under the plans the dining room would be extended and a new conservatory and beer garden built next to the bowling green.

Revamped

The existing bottle store would be converted into new toilets, while a new bottle store would be put next to a micro-brewery.

A design and access statement says: "The existing public house closed some years ago due to a fall in trade. It is proposed to undertake an extensive refurbishment and reopen the property."

It is hoped the refurbishment will re-establish the Woodman as an important and vital community amenity. Furthermore it is hoped the Woodman bowls team will return to their former home.

Councillor Karen Jordan, who represents Brockmoor, said: "This is excellent news. There are very few bowling greens in the area. It was a shame the club lost its base so it would be good if they could come back."

"The pub is an eyesore so it would be good to get it done up."

Since the pub shut the bowling club, which had 10 bowling teams, has been playing in Kingswinford and Wordsley.

Hatch, match and despatch

FAMILY history will come under the spotlight in Kidderminster with a talk on "Hatches, Matches and Despatches: Humorous Stories".

John Yates, genealogist at Birmingham Register Office, is the speaker at Wyre Forest Historical Research Group's next meeting.

It takes place on Thursday, March 10 (2pm) at Kidderminster Library. There is a small entry fee which includes refreshments.

Genealogist Gay Hill, who is chairman of the group, said: "Birth, marriage and death certificates are known as the building blocks of family history."

The balloon goes up for husband and wife on run



Children's entertainer Dave Jones, alias Wally Wombat, and his wife Joanne prepare for the London Marathon

A CHILDREN'S entertainer will dress in his trademark costume and hat rather than running vest and shorts when he takes part in this year's London Marathon.

Dave Jones, better known as Wally Wombat, and his wife Joanne are training for the event on April 17 and aim to raise £2,000 for charity.

Mr Jones will make balloon models as he runs the 26-mile course.

The 38-year-old, from Gornal Wood, said he will be carrying a

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Adelaide Street, Brierley Hill, Dudley, three days after the plane crash in 1944



A different kind of street scene: Adelaide Street, Brierley Hill, as it looks today



Derek, now of Albion Street, when aged 12

Deadly near-miss to 60 years wed



Derek and Beryl Newton from Wall Heath

HE NARROWLY escaped death when an aeroplane crashed into his Black Country home during the Second World War – now Derek Newton is celebrating his diamond wedding anniversary.

Derek was just 14 when the damaged Halifax bomber hit and reduced the back of his house to rubble, just yards from where he had been sleeping in his bed in Adelaide Street, Brierley Hill in March 1944.

He and his nine-year-old brother David were showered in bricks, exploding ammunition and debris from the plane, but amazingly escaped injury and managed to dig their way out to safety.

The crash destroyed seven homes. Between 60 and 70 people were injured, but only one person was killed. One year later, Derek laid

Damaged bomber hit Derek's house in 1944

eyes for the first time on 15-year-old Beryl, at a dance at Holly Hall Library.

They hit it off but drifted apart when he left to join the Royal Navy.

It was only when he returned to Dudley on leave at the age of 18 that they started courting.

"We just clicked straight away," said Derek, now 81, of Albion Street, Wall Heath.

Spare

"There was no mess about. I didn't even propose – my grandmother died and my dad said that seeing as there was a spare house now, we might as well get married. And that was that."

They wed at St Thomas' Church in

Dudley on February 17, 1951.

Derek worked at Round Oak Steel works, Brierley Hill, before becoming managing director of Staffordshire Steels in Stallings Lane, Kingswinford.

In 1985 the family featured in a different kind of story.

They celebrated the arrival of twin granddaughters – Faye and Jennifer – the first girls to be born into the Newton family in 153 years.

Tragically, Faye was killed in 2004 in a car crash as she travelled home from Aberystwyth University.

"That hit us all hard – you can't imagine how terrible something like that is until it happens to you," said Beryl, aged 80.

"The tragic thing was, she always

got the train home. But that one time a friend offered her a lift, and they crashed," she added.

"Family means everything to us, we're very tight-knit."

The couple have three sons – Stephen, David and Robert – and five grandchildren.

The secret to a long-lasting marriage, Beryl added, is a bit of give and take and a lot of good-natured bickering and teasing.

One example is the time she made him a cup of coffee using gravy browning by accident.

Champagne

Derek added: "I have also had a whisky every night of my life. Unless I've been very ill, I don't think I've missed a day."

In honour of the occasion, friends and family popped in throughout the day on February 17 for cake and champagne.

Their son Robert hosted a party for them at his home in Enville Street two days later.



Derek and his younger brother David in 1943

Advertisement

Doreen's story

I have so much to thank Mr Burchell for... his advice and wonderful treatment.

I had a history of problems with my own teeth and received a lot of treatment in hospital. The implants I were advised to consider have been wonderful, but I found it a difficult decision to make. I hadn't heard of the procedure for dentures, but how glad I am that I took Mr Burchell's advice.

To say I am pleased with my new teeth is an understatement.

They are absolutely perfect and a pleasure to wear. I love to show them off. The difference the implants make to the security of the denture is simply unbelievable, it really is life-changing for me.

I found Mr Burchell's expertise second to none and he went to so much trouble to make each visit to the clinic a pleasure.

In the past I would have to consider what food to eat and there was always a problem with food particles becoming trapped under the bottom denture. I no longer have any problem at all and do not have to consider what food I should have or how to eat it.

Life has changed dramatically. The



Peter's story

I can eat anything, but that's not always been the case. It's as if I have my natural teeth back and I cannot believe the difference.

Having read good reports of Mr Burchell's reputation at fabricating realistic, natural-looking, well-fitting dentures, I made an appointment to see him.

On my first consultation I explained the difficulty I was having in stopping my lower dentures from moving around and not being retained in a comfortable position.

He suggested I visited implant dentist Jonathan Pugh to determine if I would be suitable for the procedure. I agreed, but not without reservation due to procedure involved. My consultation with Mr Pugh was professional and reassuring and the X-rays he took showed I had sufficient bone to support two implants which could secure my lower denture.

The insertion of the implants was painless – no different to having a filling.

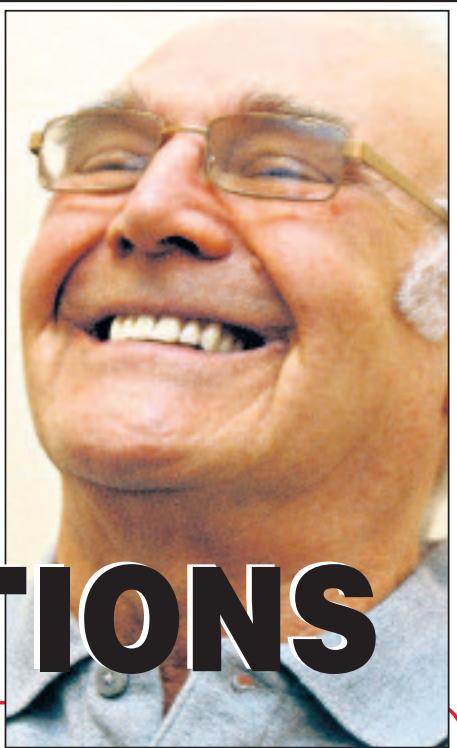
Mr Burchell fitted my perfectly-crafted dentures, securing them to the implants.

They were a superb fit, a situation I



had not experienced for a number of years. While initial costs may appear high, having considered the long-term benefits of the treatment, I felt confident I was making the right decision.

The stability of the denture is just great and I can happily go to any restaurant without thinking about what suitable choice might be on the menu.



Terry's story

I'm a confident guy, you know, nothing really keeps me down – even when things are not good. But I had nine years of trouble with my teeth and eventually began to erode my confidence.

I would never have believed it; I'd have a laugh about it, but it really isn't funny when you have unresolved problems with false teeth.

My dentist eventually referred me to Mr Burchell to see if there was some way of making my plates fit properly. The difference now is a world apart. My plates fit perfectly, look like my real teeth and I can live impulsively once again. Before, if I was going to a restaurant, I would have to use a fixative to secure my teeth. That was okay if I could eat within a couple of hours of using

the fixative. Anytime after that, it was hopeless, but now I can tackle anything. Previously, I had never been in contact with an actual denture-maker, teeth had always been prescribed through a dentist and the difference for me was incredible. There were five stages on the route to my final prescription and the treatment I received at every point was excellent. My teeth were well worth the money – what price can you put on being able to eat normally and socialise without embarrassment?

My confidence is back and Mr Burchell did everything he said he would: That my teeth would fit, I would be able to chew properly and they'd look real, totally natural. To sum up, there's nothing I have attempted to eat, which I have not been able to.

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Probe launched after cancelled operation

A PATIENT was left fuming after an operation for which she had waited months was cancelled minutes before she was due in theatre at Dudley's main hospital.

Veronica Davies, aged 39, had already changed into a surgical gown when she was told that her treatment at Russells Hall Hospital would not be going ahead after all.

She was told no bed was available. Miss Davies claims she had phoned ahead on the morning of her operation, February 15, and was told there was a bed. She said that after her operation was cancelled nurses were still telling her there was a bed, and that a surgeon told her she needed another scan.

The shop assistant, of Harebell Crescent, Dudley, wants answers after nearly two years of pain.

She has a glandular stone near her right cheek. A procedure to remove it last year at New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton, failed and the only alternative was to have an operation.

Business show for Chamber

THE Black Country Chamber of Commerce has announced its latest business exhibition and trade show.

About 25 exhibitors are already booked to attend the event, billed as a networking opportunity for businesses.

The Business to Business Exhibition and Table Top Trade Show is at Patshull Park Hotel, Pattingham, near Wolverhampton on Thursday, March 3. It runs from 10am until noon, admission free.

To book a place or for details call Chris Bate on 0845 8724256 or email chrisbate@blackcountrychamber.co.uk

Miss Davies said she was told the operation would need to take place within four to six weeks. "This has been a complete nightmare," she said. "On the day of the operation I phoned the hospital at 6am and was told beds were tight but there was one for me."

"When I arrived I was introduced to the anaesthetist who said I would be going to theatre in 20 minutes.

Popped

"The surgeon then popped his head around the door and said it could not go ahead.

"At first he said there were no beds and then that I needed another scan."

Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust chief executive Paula Clark said: "We have received a complaint from Miss Davies and we have started an investigation."

Chloe's tip-top tap triumph



Chloe Peacock jumps for joy as the contest looms ahead

TIP-TOP tap dancer Chloe Peacock has won a clutch of honours.

Not only did the 13-year-old pupil at The Earls High School, Halesowen, earn a distinction in her recent tap dancing exam, she also gained a merit for ballet and honours for freestyle rock and roll and street dance.

Now she will be part of a team from

Sheryl's Dance Academy in Cradley Heath, taking part in a national street dance competition at Blackpool's Winter Gardens this month.

"I just love the atmosphere of dancing and performing," said Chloe, of Fairmile Road, Halesowen, who has been a pupil at Sheryl's Dance Academy since the age of nine.

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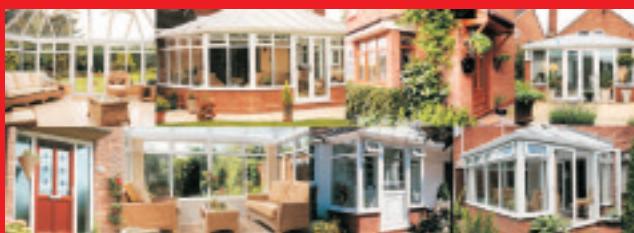
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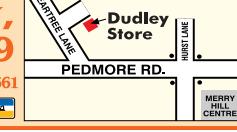
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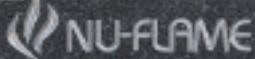


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thechronicle

Andy has the key to cope with blindness

A WALL-HEATH man who went blind now has independence, thanks to a college course teaching him how to "read" on a computer.

The programme speaks what he wants to read or write, enabling Andy Main to keep up with news.

Mr Main, aged 70, of Brook Crescent, also plans to finish a book about his native Kirkcaldy.

He wants to contrast life on the poor side of town with that of ex-Prime Minister Gordon Brown, who is from the wealthier part. The ex-Unionist trade union official began to lose his sight in April due to a genetic condition called Leber's optic neuropathy and, since May, has been able to see only shadows.

Pies pub with old owners

THE future of the landmark Mad O'Rourke's Pie Factory pub has been secured after former owner Pete Towler stepped in to buy it back from administrators.

The pub in Hurst Lane, Tipton, has now closed for a refurbishment before reopening under Mr Towler's ownership.

The move will also see the return of "Desperate" Dawn Pitts, the former general manager and head chef, who got her nickname because of the pub's renowned Desperate Dan cow pies.

She was made redundant when Birmingham-based administrators PKF took over last July.

Mr Towler, aged 51, of Tettenhall, Wolverhampton, said that he and wife Susan were "delighted" to save the pub.

"I am thrilled, really happy to be back," he said.

After retiring the father of three and grandfather of nine retrained as a chef and worked at the Homestead old people's home on the A449 at Stourton.

"All of that came to a shattering halt when I went blind and I was very low," he said.

Dudley Vision Services told him of a course for visually impaired people run by Dudley College and he enrolled at the Pocklington Centre, Hagley Road, Oldswinford, Stourbridge.

Patient

Andy said: "The patient tutor and her assistant began with the simplest of tasks.

"I now have a computer software program called Guide, which tells me the letters as I type them and goes 'quack' if I hit the wrong key. My writing sounded like Donald Duck!"

"I no longer feel isolated. The thing I missed most when I went blind was catching up on all the trivia of the area through the Express & Star. Now I can read it again online."

It's the five generation game



Back from left, great grandmother Wendy Abbey, grandmother Rebecca Westwood, mother Stacey Potter and great-great grandmother Ivy Woodall who is holding little Marlie

FIVE GENERATIONS of a Dudley family have come together as the latest arrival to the clan – three-week old baby Marlie – is welcomed.

It was an extra special moment for 82-year-old Ivy Woodall who, after having five children of her own, plus 15 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren, has become a great-great grandmother for the first time.

Also on hand to welcome little Marlie to the family was her mother Stacey Potter, aged 20, from Laurel

Road along with the baby's grandmother Rebecca Westwood, aged 38, with whom Stacey and Marlie live.

Marlie's great-grandmother, 55-year-old Wendy Abbey, from Forest Road in Dudley, said everyone in the family was thrilled with the latest addition – especially Ivy.

"She is over the moon. It was lovely when she first held her," she said.

"She loves all her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We are a very close family."

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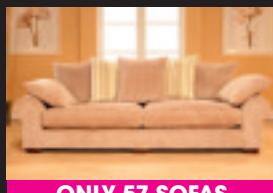
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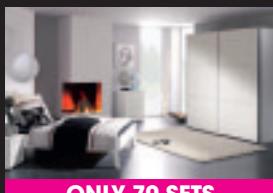


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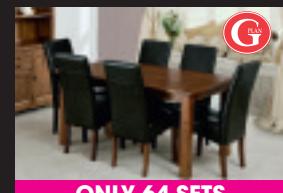


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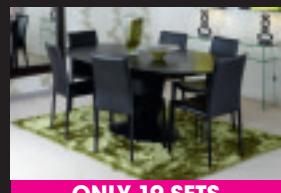


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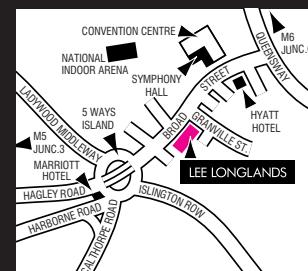
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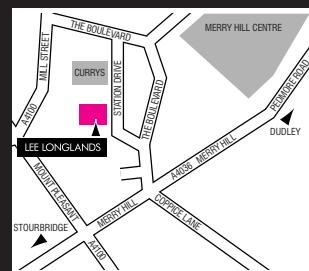
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Skaters enjoy the novel sensation of sliding around under the familiar station canopy at Kidderminster SVR. Pictures: Jon Lucas

Families getting their skates on at SVR station

HUNDREDS of families have got their skates on at a temporary ice rink set up at the Severn Valley Railway.

It's the first time the heritage attraction has offered the activity at its Kidderminster Station and it has proved popular.

Up to 2,000 people are thought to have used the rink during the half-term holiday.

Catering manager Elise Ballard had the idea to boost income while part of the 16-mile Kidderminster to Bridgnorth line is out of action for repairs. The rink was set up on the concourse, itself part of a £650,000 development in 2006.

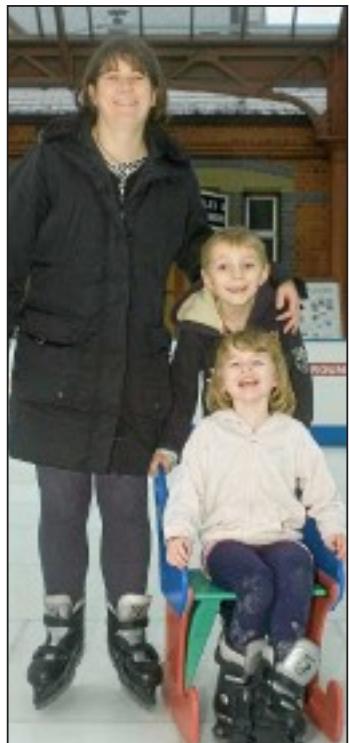
Engineering work further down the line at Bewdley and Arley has meant that the railway's steam passenger trains are running only at the north end of the line, between Bridgnorth, Hampton Loade and Higley.

SVR general manager Nick Ralls said: "This was a rather shrewd idea by Elise."

"Without any trains to worry about at Kidderminster until we reopen the full line again, this was the perfect opportunity to open up the station for another purpose."

Judging by the enthusiasm that has been shown so far, skating gone down really well with everyone. We will certainly consider doing it again."

The engineering work includes rebuilding platforms to allow new drainage to be laid at Arley station. Waterproofing work is also taking place at the Bewdley station's viaduct. The line will not operate again completely until March 20.



Family fun for mum Lindsey Haycock with children Ryan, eight, and Emily, five, from Kidderminster

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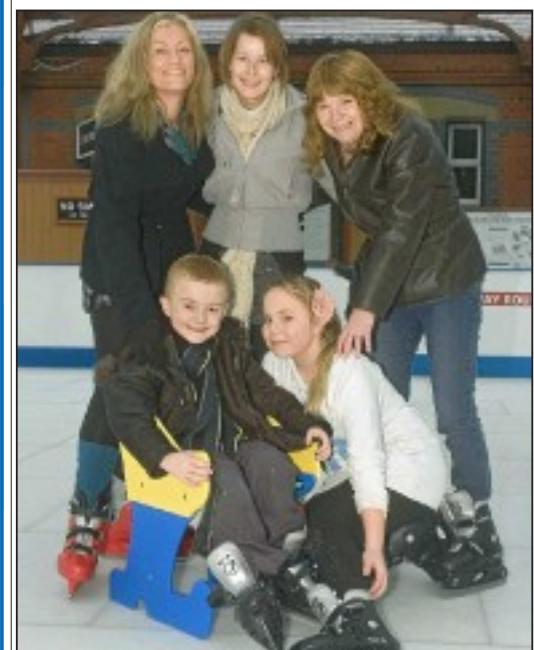
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N-ice work for family friends Julia Watkins with her grandson Connor Cooper, six, and Sharon Caddick (back right) with her daughters Melissa (back), and Katie, all from Kidderminster

Restaurant plan at Wharf

A RESTAURANT and outside seating area will be built at a shopping arcade in the heart of Kidderminster if planners approve.

Henderson Global Investors want to build the single-storey structure at Weavers Wharf, in Kidderminster, to replace existing public seating.

Proposals have been submitted to Wyre Forest District Council and will be discussed on March 8.

If approved, the restaurant will be

built on land between the TK Maxx store and the River Stour.

The building would be glass panelled and have a large overhanging roof canopy. Outside seating would be placed on the walkway side of the river.

Existing public seating on the land would be replaced on a landscaped area on the other side of the river.

No objections have been received to the plan and council officers have recommended approval.

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**thechronicle**

Store tries to lift the restrictions on when it can take deliveries

RESTRICTIONS on delivery times at a busy Dudley supermarket could be lifted under new plans, despite complaints from nearby residents about the noise.

People living near the Morrisons store in Stallings Lane, Kingswinford, have submitted numerous complaints to the company over deliveries being made before 8am and after 8pm during the week.

The store has responded to the problem by submitting a planning application to have the restrictions removed, meaning it would be able to take deliveries at any time. A second application has been registered asking for permission to install a higher boundary fence to try to screen residents from noise.

Kingswinford and Wall Heath councillor Dave Tyler said he had been told of the problem by residents in Charterfield Drive



The Morrisons store in Kingswinford

Hawkeswell Drive. He said the store should work to find a way to obey the conditions rather than having them lifted.

"It shouldn't be beyond the ability and imagination of all the Morrisons depots to ensure that their deliveries turn up on

time," he said. "They knew what they were getting into when they took over the store, and they knew what the conditions were."

"I understand that these lorries are coming from all over the UK and often travel through the night."

"But when they arrive early they are parking up near residents' houses at 5am or 6am and leaving their refrigerators units running."

"It just isn't fair on the people who live there."

"I will definitely be supporting the residents on this one."

A design statement submitted in support of the application by Morrisons states: "The first application seeks to remove the restriction on delivery hours.

"The second application seeks to enhance the acoustic screening between the Morrisons store and residential dwellings."

Ban on paying cash for scrap is mooted

SCRAP DEALERS may be banned from paying cash for metal to tackle soaring rates of theft.

The Government is considering a change in the law so that all transactions are logged. It is hoped the move will stop thieves from getting rid of stolen goods for cash, and follows calls from two Black Country MPs.

Everything from churches, homes and businesses, to road signs and postboxes have been targeted by thieves aiming to get money by selling metal on for scrap.

Conservative Chris Kelly, MP for Dudley South, has held a meeting with James Brokenshire, Parliamentary under-secretary of state for crime prevention, to discuss how the thefts are plaguing the area.

His intervention follows a long campaign by West Bromwich East Labour MP Tom Watson who has been calling for cash payments for metal to be outlawed.

Mr Kelly was joined by Maurice Hudson, of scrap metal dealers Hudsons of Dudley Ltd, and Karl Weston, of Blackburns Metals Ltd in Kingswinford, who discussed how the thefts were affecting businesses and communities in the area.

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Island

Sycamore Adventure was developed in partnership with local children and young people, including those with disabilities.

It offers a desert island complete with boat, hammocks and a palm tree, a carved wooden dragon where children can enjoy storytelling sessions, an indoor play barn, canopied swing, stream and mini waterfall.

The playground also has a range of specialist toys, equipment and facilities to ensure that disabled children and young people can participate fully, including hoists, a care room, lift, aids and adaptations.

Families, schools and organisations who work with children and young people can find out more about the park at www.sycamoreadventure.co.uk or by calling 01384 813755.

There were 600 thefts in just seven weeks over the summer in the Black Country, up by 240 per cent on the same period in 2009.

Registered

Mr Kelly said the minister revealed the Home Office was looking at bringing in a cashless system which would help insure all transactions are registered and can be traced.

It would force metal dealers to pay either by electronic transfer or cheque.

He also said the Government was working with the Environment Agency to shut down unlicensed, illegal sites which melt metal down.

"This region could help lead the way in tackling this issue. The legitimate traders in the Black Country are fed up with the illegal sites blackening their name and stripping our church roofs and community centres. The law-abiding trade is very keen to clamp down on this."

Coupons will be offered to those unemployed, students and senior citizens. Call 07790 568367 for further details.

Pride in classic performance



Dave Hutchins, who plays Mr Darcy, and Emma Dyke as Elizabeth Bennet

Win a wedding at hall open day

A FREE wedding is up for grabs for couples who go along to an open day at Priory Hall this weekend.

Dudley Council is offering a lucky couple the chance to win a wedding at the Grade I listed building through a free prize draw being held at the event.

Couples will be able to put their names into a hat to win a wedding, valued at £290. The draw will be made at the end of the event, which will run from 10am to 4pm on Saturday (March 5). If the winning couple have already booked their day, the fee will be waived.

The winners will be required to pay only the statutory notice fee of £33.50 each at their local register office.

The free draw will also include other prizes including a studio portrait session for four people including a free photograph, a tiara and an hour's free magic show for a wedding reception.

Information on ceremony cars, wedding cakes, balloons, photographers, bridal wear, flowers and much more will be on offer from the various exhibitors.

Couples will recreate marriage ceremonies and fashion shows will be held throughout the day.

Go-ahead for the council HQ

WYRE FOREST District Council scheme to build a £10.5million year in running costs.

But its proponents say the project is essential in order to save financial planning"

Councillor John Campion, council leader, said the decision was based "on careful and prudent project management".

The decision was made at a meeting last Wednesday.

New offices are forecast to save us a large six figure sum each

Opponents have criticised the council more than £500,000 a year."

Paint cash pleas by congregation



Appealing for help to redo the paintwork are church treasurer Mike Penn, back, church server John Thompson and churchwardens Mary Thompson and Bob Green

A CHURCH in Dudley has launched an urgent appeal to raise £20,000 for the final stage of a major restoration project.

Churchgoers at St Mary's in Kingswinford want to give the inside of the 12th century building a lick of paint. But with many weddings booked, the work has had to be scheduled in a four week slot from April 11. Fundraisers are now appealing for donations to help pay decorators to paint walls and ceilings.

They are also organising events to help generate cash including a spring fair planned for April 9.

The redecoration will follow a three-year project to restore the church, including repairing the roof and exterior walls, costing more than £600,000.

Churchwarden Mary Thompson said: "The church council members feel that they have a responsibility to preserve the building, both in memory of those who have worshipped there in the past, and as an investment in the church community of the future."

Economic

"The great generosity and sheer commitment of the residents of the parish of Kingswinford and beyond has enabled us to get to this next stage of our large scale restoration project."

"We are so excited to see the end in sight."

Church treasurer Mike Penn said: "We realise that fundraising is at its most challenging in these harsh economic times. All donations, however small, will provide a few more litres of paint."

Churchgoers have previously held fundraising events including flower festivals, shows and fairs.

Last year a flower festival at the church, with the theme "Magic of the Movies", attracted more than 2,000 visitors and raised £3,000.

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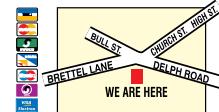
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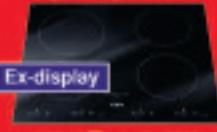
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Transport plans too complex – council

TRANSPORT plans for the next 15 years in the Black Country have been criticised by council bosses as "overly complex and contrived", with little information about how they would be funded amid budget cuts.

Transport authority Centro has drawn up a wish list for transport up to 2026 which includes the expansion of the Midland Metro.

Assurances

Wolverhampton City Council, in reply to consultation, has asked how the schemes will get off the ground, but is now being urged to give the local transport plan its blessing after Centro gave assurances that comments had been taken on board.

A report sent to Centro stated: "The council welcomes and supports the general thrust of the document."

"However, the structure of the strategy seems overly complex and contrived and it would benefit from being simplified."

New jobs at the theatre

THE Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, is creating three new posts, including a box office manager.

A dayman and accounts assistant are also being taken on at the Lichfield Street venue.

The jobs are being advertised on the theatre's website as well as its Facebook and Twitter pages.

Bosses say they need "three exceptional people" to join the "thriving" theatre.

Applications were due to close tomorrow (March 4).

Fakes trader who owes £39,000 must pay . . . £1

A DUDLEY shopkeeper who made and sold more than 40,000 counterfeit DVDs and CDs has been ordered to pay back just £1.

Sameer Husseini, aged 52, cost the film and music industry an estimated £310,000 because of the scam at his High Street shop.

The court previously heard that the store was selling Hollywood blockbusters for £1 and £2.

The hearing at Wolverhampton Crown Court on Friday was held to decide how much could be recovered under the Proceeds of Crime Act. If Husseini comes into money again he will still be required to pay the £39,000.

Argued

Mr Alexander Stein, defending, had disputed the estimated cost to the industry so the £39,000 figure was agreed with the prosecution.

He argued it could not be assumed that all customers would have paid a higher price for a DVD if a fraudulent £1 copy had not been available.

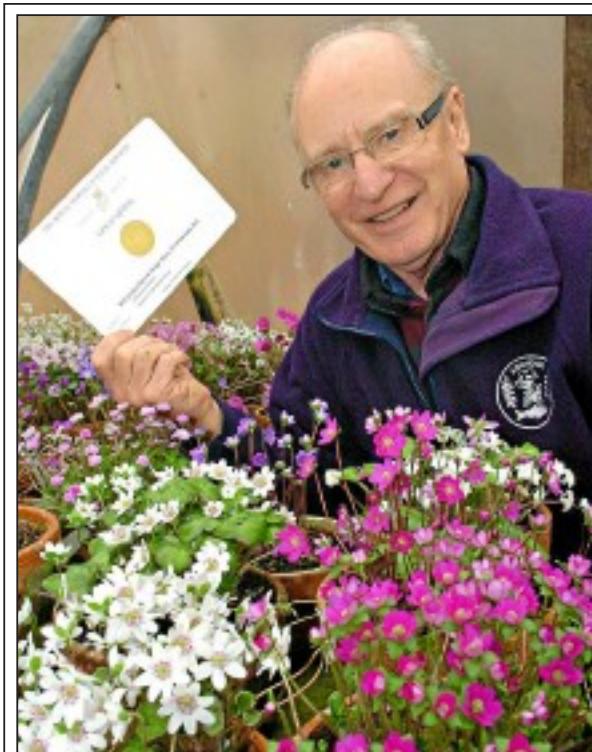
Husseini had admitted six offences, including being in possession of articles designed or adapted to make copies.

Depressed man tragedy

AN ELECTRICAL engineer was found hanged 11 days after leaving psychiatric hospital, an inquest heard. Andrew Clarke, aged 42, had a history of depression and had spent time in Bushy Fields Hospital, in Dudley.

The father of three, of Woodstock Close, Dudley, was an informal detainee and was allowed leave last June 28. He had admitted a drink problem, said partner Elizabeth Webb.

Black Country Coroner Robin Balmain recorded an open verdict. He could not be sure that Mr Clarke had intended to kill himself due to the high level of alcohol in his blood.



Ashwood Nurseries manager Philip Baulk celebrates the centre's 50th gold medal

Nursery strikes gold again

A BLACK Country garden centre is enjoying the sweet smell of success after receiving its 50th consecutive gold medal.

Ashwood Nurseries, in Kingswinford, was awarded the accolade for a floral display created for the Royal Horticultural Society's early spring show.

Staff from the centre, including owner John Massey, travelled to London for the prestigious event.

For the winning display they used hepatica flowers to create a replica of a woodland floor.

The flowers were grown by Mr Massey, who bought the nursery 40 years ago when he was 18.

He was made an MBE for charity work and also holds the Victoria Medal of Honour – the highest accolade the horticultural society can bestow.

Wedding venue in peril from shop plan

STOURBRIDGE register office could close following the approval of a £50million plan to redevelop the Crown Centre.

The office may be forced to close when the project, creating new shops and a Tesco supermarket, begins next year.

Dudley Council said no decision had been taken on whether a register office would be offered in Stourbridge in future. It was considering options.

There has been a drop in the number of ceremonies held at the register office at the Crown Centre, with 56 weddings taking place in 2010 compared with 83 the previous year.

Variety

Cabinet member for legal and property Councillor Adrian Turner, said: "Following the approval of the planning application for the regeneration of Stourbridge town centre we will now be exploring our options in relation to how registration services are provided in Dudley borough.

"No decisions have been made but we will be looking at a variety of ways to continue offering registration services in Stourbridge on a short-term basis.

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Lord Richard Bradford, Chairman of the restaurant association with Mohamed Malik Miah



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It's electric! Land Rover unveils hybrid at show

LAND ROVER is unveiling its electric powered vehicle at this year's Geneva Motor Show.

The West Midlands firm used to have a reputation for making gas-guzzlers – but is showcasing a diesel hybrid 4x4 at the show in Switzerland, which opens today (March 3).

The car works in the same way as the Toyota Prius, using conventional power in conjunction with a battery that allows it to run partly on electric.

Land Rover will also show off its keenly-anticipated Range

By Peter Carroll

Rover Evospace in both coupe and five-door forms, as well as the latest versions of the Discovery 4 and Range Rover.

While there is sure to be huge interest in the Evospace, due for launch later this year in the UK, the more radical car is the Range e, Land Rover's diesel hybrid prototype, which will make its global debut at the show on March 1.

The technology-packed Range e is one of several working prototypes currently



being developed at Land Rover's design and engineering centre at Gaydon. It is based on a Range Rover Sport and features a standard 3.0 litre TDV6 diesel

with an eight-speed ZF automatic transmission. But it also has a parallel diesel hybrid system which means it can run on purely electric power too.

The new hybrid Range Rover Range e is being unveiled at the Geneva Motor Show

The Range e's twin power plants make it the first 4x4 from Land Rover to achieve emissions 89g of CO₂ – the same as a Prius.

It has a range of 20 miles on purely electric power, a top speed of around 120mph and a range of 690 miles.

Unique

It is designed so that the driver can switch to electric power when stuck in traffic, saving fuel, and then switching back to diesel when cruising at a speed that burns off less fuel.

Although Land Rover is announcing European pricing

for the Evospace, UK prices will not be revealed until April.

Unusually, the Evospace will not be available in standard trim levels. Instead, customers will have the opportunity to personalise their cars from a range of designer 'packs' with three themes: The cool and contemporary Pure, the luxurious Prestige; and the bold and sporting Dynamic.

Customers can further tailor these themes with different designer interiors, option packs, standalone options and accessory items, providing even more freedom to specify the car of

their choice. Gerry McGovern, Land Rover design director said: "Customers like to make their own unique statement with a vehicle and we have provided individuals with lots of opportunity to personalise their new Range Rover Evospace, whilst maintaining the essence of the design."

Also making their debut at the show are two Limited Editions. The Range Rover Autobiography Ultimate Edition is the most luxurious Range Rover while the 2011 Discovery 4 Landmark Limited Edition with Black and White themes are new variants.



Mechanic Ian Wheelwright back at Longbridge

Now the wheels turn again for MG workers

IAN WHEELWRIGHT can scarcely believe he's back on the production line at Longbridge as it gears up to start turning out cars once more. In 2005 the Stourbridge worker was one of around 6,000 staff who lost their jobs following the collapse of MG Rover.

Many believed that this would signal the end of the road for one of the world's great vehicle making centres. But the firm's new Chinese owners had other ideas and have spent the last five years paving the way for the return of car assembly at Longbridge, albeit on a far smaller scale than in its glory days.

Operations began with the production of an updated version of the MG TF roadster, a project which met with only limited success as the car was based on an ageing design. But in a few weeks' time UK assembly will start on the MG6 Fastback, the first all-new MG for 20 years.

The Fastback hatchback will arrive in showrooms towards the end of the month, followed by a saloon in July. Prices will range from £16,000 to £20,000.

And among the 40 workers



Production is back at Longbridge. Motoring editor PETER CARROLL paid a visit.

who will be assembling the cars for the UK market is 34-year-old Ian, of Copice Avenue, Stourbridge. Around 95 per cent of production line workers are former Longbridge staffers who, like Ian, have returned to their former place of employment.

After losing his job in 2005 Ian re-trained as an electri-



Some of the test MG6 cars that have been built

cian and subsequently worked for Birmingham Council. But he says that car making is "in the blood" and jumped at the chance to join the new MG Motor company when it was recruiting three years ago.

"There's been a lot of doom and gloom but now we are nearly ready to take off again," he says. Staff working on the former production line used for the Rover 75 will not be creating cars from scratch.

MG6s are partly built in China and by the time they are shipped over to Feltham, around three quarters

of the production process has already taken place. Cars

have to be multi-skilled these days. The key thing is to be flexible."

Manufacturing manager Craig Osman, another former MG Rover man, is anticipating assembly of 2,000 MG6 hatchbacks and saloons in the first full year of production.

Demand

He says his staff can produce up to 5,000 vehicles annually while the plant, which still occupies 60 acres of land at Longbridge, is capable of producing 100,000 cars – should the demand be there. "It's an exciting time for the company and we are nearly there now."

As far as components go, electrical items are sourced in the UK and the tyres come from Dunlop, while the bulk of the parts are made in China.

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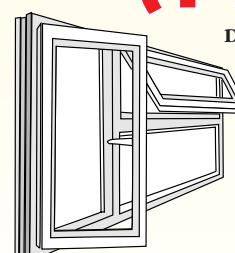
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'Children keep you young and you learn to see the child and their behaviour separately'



Sam Lowe holding two-month-old James, with foster daughter Charlotte Edwards and proud foster-mum Jennifer Lowe

The priceless reward of investing love into a foster family of 40

When a Dudley couple wished for a bigger family they never thought that becoming foster parents would bring 40 young people into their home in just 11 years.

Jennifer and Simeon Lowe currently foster three children at their five-bedroom detached home in Kingswinford.

The couple, who devote all their time to caring for the children, have one biological daughter, 19-year-old Sam, who now plays a major part in the youngsters' upbringing.

Jennifer, who had a tough birth with Sam, says that she and her husband considered fostering for many years. While the choice of adoption was there, fostering meant that they could fulfil their dream of being able to help more than one child.

"The children help keep you young and you learn to see the child and their behaviour as two separate things," says former beanie Jennifer.

"You can never prepare yourself for the challenges that lie in store, but the feeling that you get at the end of every day, knowing that you are giving all you possibly can to help a child, is just indescribable."

"We are a very hands-on, active family which we believe creates an energetic and positive atmosphere within the house.

It also helps enable the children to express themselves in different ways, something which proves to be beneficial at home and school."

Having formed positive relationships with all their foster children and birth parents, the couple admit that some of the children do lose touch. But they have enriched the lives of many, and photographs of their foster children's children adorn their home.

Sam received a pile of 'Dad' cards on his 46th birthday and they stand proudly on the window sill.

Patience

Having cared for children with a host of emotional problems, Jennifer says it is a continuous learning curve for the family.

"We have always had the most beautiful children, and while sometimes their behaviour can be quite disruptive, as foster parents we are there to help re-programme them and make them social again," Jennifer adds.

"It is a huge deal for these children. It's important to keep them interested and show them that anything is possible."

It hasn't always been easy for the inspirational duo, and one placement saw them care for a fetal child. It took the boy two whole years to settle into the Lowes' home, but after continuous nurturing he

With a desperate shortage of foster parents across the Black Country, Chronicle reporter Sarah Hazelwood meets the Lowe family who have been fostering young people for more than a decade.

care for males or females up to the age of 18. The youngest placement they had was a five-week-old baby.

FCA provides 24-hour support and ongoing training from first aid to skills to foster sessions, teaching new parents how to deal with children who have experienced a range of abuse or neglect.

Foster Care Associates (FCA), based in Dudley, is hoping to help recruit new foster parents and believes that anyone with the desire to make a lasting difference could be the perfect candidate.

Jennifer praised the work of the FCA and encourages other people to find out more about fostering.

"We couldn't imagine our lives without the foster children, we just feel so privileged to have cared for and seen so many develop."

"I hope we are proof that anyone can do anything, but how the children turn out is the real proof – they are the product of our work and go on to have a wonderful life."

Rewarding

With a 10,000 shortfall of foster parents across the UK, single people, same sex couples, cohabitating and married couples, from all ethnic groups, over the age of 21, with at least one spare bedroom, are all urged to get in touch with the FCA.

The application process, which takes four to six months, includes a Criminal Records Bureau check.

The FCA team stresses that you are never pressured into anything. All avenues, from home checks to financial support, are explored.

Each stage is assessed, and fees and support are tailored to meet each individual placement.

Yusuf Khan, recruitment manager for Foster Care Associates, said: "This is the most rewarding job and it is great to see a family like this take the foster children under their wing and treat them as if they were one of their own."

"We work closely with the families and the children to ensure the safety and well-being of all parties. It is vital that the children are well-matched to their new homes and we monitor them closely to see that all parties are happy."

FCA provides 24-hour support and ongoing training from first aid to skills to foster sessions, teaching new parents how to deal with children who have experienced a range of abuse or neglect.

"Foster parents prove that they are the ones responsible for offering young people a second chance in life. It is a privilege to be able to be a part of this every day."

To find out more visit, www.foster.com or free-phone 0800 023 4561.

£800,000 civic centre 'is waste of space'

DUDLEY'S £800,000 civic square has been branded a waste of money – after being used on only 33 days in the past seven years.

Stone Street Square was created in 2004 on the site of a former council-run car park in the town centre. Shop owners at the time blasted the decision saying it would harm trade and

affect the flow of shoppers through the town. But the council claimed it would help to regenerate Dudley town centre rather than hinder trade.

However, only 27 events, over the space of 33 days, have been held within the past seven years, according to information released in a Freedom of Information request. Some of the

events ran for more than one day. So far this year it has been booked for just four days.

Alan Caswell, who owns the Arcade Toy shop, in the nearby Fountain Arcade, said: "It has been a total waste of space considering the money that was spent on it. It is pathetic that the council won't admit that the money could have been spent

on a much better use." Menswear shop owner Roger Scott said it had created a "dead corner" in the town.

Deputy council leader Councillor Lee Jones claimed the square was still central to the town's future. "It isn't going to be turned back into a car park. It is part of the regeneration of the town," he said.

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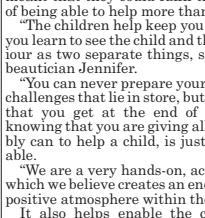
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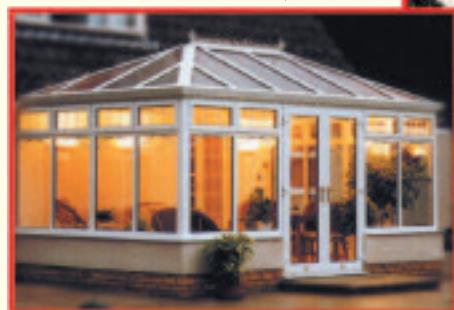
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Letting voices be heard

Members of Chat Back Productions speaking out
DUDLEY foster children are making their voices heard nationwide – and getting “red carpet” treatment into the bargain. The 34 teenagers in foster care, with children of the parents who take them in, have made a series of films telling of their struggles against heartbreaking issues.

Kingswinford-based Chatback Productions, which has won a clutch of national accolades for its hard-hitting dramas about subjects such as domestic violence, is now in the running for the award. The group was launched four years ago by foster mums Jane Ahmed, aged 55, of Dubarry Avenue, Kingswinford, and Jenny Honnor, aged 45, of Woodbury Avenue, Halesowen, and has been given a base in the drama room at Kingswinford School.

Bringing people together

Asima Khalid's vision is bridging community gaps
WOMEN and children of all races and religions are getting together in Lye – thanks to a local youth worker’s vision and enthusiasm. Asima Khalid, aged 27, a youth worker for Dudley Council, set up an organisation called Apni Zaroorat – “Our Needs” in Urdu, in 2008.

Asima, of Crabbe Street, Wollaston, said: “I thought there were gaps in the community, with people from different backgrounds and religions being segregated. I got a management committee together to look at how we could integrate people, and Apni Zaroorat was born. Now we have white, Asian, Somali and African-Caribbean people all meeting up regularly for activities.” Asima feels “fantastic” about being nominated for a Mayor’s award.

Talking news for the blind

Talking Newspaper co-ordinator Bronwen Hall

BRONWEN HALL switched careers from being a librarian to bringing a ray of light into the world of blind and partially sighted people across Dudley. She is co-ordinator of the Black Country Talking Newspaper and Magazine, originally formed in 1976, which is based at the Thomas Pocklington Trust, behind May Stevens Hospice, in Hagley Road, Oldswinford, Stourbridge.

Bronwen, from Kidderminster, now co-ordinates a team of nine volunteers, who record news on to compact discs to post out a weekly “newspaper” and monthly “magazine” to 260 visually impaired people. As one of the recipients said: “Never doubt our appreciation of what you all do to enhance the lives of the blind and partially sighted.”

Help from the living room

Pat Randle leading the tree planting session

PAT RANDLE and her husband Trevor launched the St Andrew’s Residents Trust (START) in Netherton from their own living room to help the local community to improve the neighbourhood.

Now Pat, aged 57, leads young people on missions to carry out useful work in the area. She and Trevor, 54, who set up START in 2007, each spend about four days a week working voluntarily to run groups providing activities for children and pensioners in Netherton, including a fishing club and computer courses. They now have a base in a shop unit in Bush Road. YPat recently worked with 34 youngsters to plant 400 hazel trees to replace dead wood.

Worthy leaders of four projects are now up for the public vote

STARS of four projects that have transformed people’s lives in Dudley are up for public vote to win the top prize in the Mayor’s Civic Awards.

The four finalists for the award have been selected personally by the mayor Councillor Peter Miller.

Now the names have been announced and the public can vote for them online up until tomorrow (March 4).

The finalists are: Pat Randle, of St Andrew’s Residents Trust in Netherton; Asima Khalid, of Apni Zaroorat at Community Network in Lye; Bronwen Hall, of Black Country Talking Newspaper and Magazine, in Stourbridge and the team from

Chatback Productions, of Kingswinford.

It is the only one of the five categories of the Mayor’s Civic Awards in which the public decides the winner.

Favourite

Now local people are being urged to register their favour in the poll.

Councillor Miller said: “As

mayor I am privileged to meet such inspiring people at the various civic functions around the borough.

“It was very difficult choosing just four people as nominations for the mayor’s award,” said the mayor.

“But there can be only one winner, so I would urge people to go online to find out more and choose the one they feel should

receive the mayor’s award,” he added.

People can vote for their selection by going online and visiting the council’s website at www.dudley.gov.uk

Footsteps

Winner of the award will be announced later this month.

Whoever wins will follow in the footsteps of Rosemary Pitt, a

trained nurse from Alveley, near Bridgnorth.

She won last year’s award for her extensive volunteer work at May Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge.

Nominations for the four other categories in civic accolades – the Duncan Edwards award for sport, Cedric Hardwicke award for arts, Frank Foley award for community

spirit and Thomas Attwood award for education – are now closed.

There were 90 nominations for those four categories, the outcome of which will be decided by a judging panel.

The winner and one runner-up in each category will receive a trophy and certificate from the mayor at a ceremony on March 22.

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Show helps to build for the future



Careful planning is so important

BRITAIN'S love affair with home-building continues with the Homebuilding & Renovating Show returning to the NEC, Birmingham this month.

The show from March 24-27 aims to educate and inspire visitors wanting to build their future. And 80 Chronicle readers have a chance to bag a pair of free tickets (worth £28 each).

This year's show is even bigger and more interactive with a whole host of new and innovative design ideas, practical workshops and hands-on demonstrations. With more than 100 new exhibitors, the show brings all the latest in homebuilding and renovating products and services.

It is also a chance for visitors to meet more than 500 of the UK's leading self-build and renovation companies, see 1000s of new products and services and attend one of the 64 free seminars or 48 specialist master-classes, offering a fantastic opportunity to enjoy advice from the country's leading experts.

The experts from Homebuilding & Renovating magazine will help guide your project from start to finish. Share their real-life experience and hear how to avoid the common pitfalls of self-build and renovation projects. Take

this as an opportunity to get the latest tips on design, planning and building regulations, budgeting and energy efficiency.

Share the passions of our experts including Michael Holmes (editor-in-chief of Homebuilding & Renovating Magazine and presenter of I Own Britain's Best Home), Charlie Luxton (green home expert and presenter of Build a New Life in the Country and Best House on the Street), David Snell (consultant at the BBC and the Daily Telegraph's bricks and mortar expert), Mark Brinkley (author of the House Builder's Bible), Tim Pullen (eco expert at Homebuilding & Renovating Magazine) and Sally Tagg (planning expert at Homebuilding & Renovating Magazine).

For visitors wanting more specialist advice, there are 48 free masterclass programmes to address specific problems and issues. Presented by leading exhibitors, these classes offer a great opportunity to talk one-on-one with the leading companies in the industry. To stand a chance of winning a pair of tickets simply answer the following question.

How many free seminars are there?

Send your answer on a postcard to: Homebuild Competition, Chronicle series (Editorial), 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES, Closing date: Thursday, March 10. Usual rules apply. Editor's decision is final

- For more information and tickets, visit www.homebuildingshow.co.uk or call the ticket hotline on 0844 581 1377. Tickets are £10 in advance or £14 on the door (children under 16 go free).

TOP TIPS TO MAKE YOUR HOME GREENER

NATIONAL Homebuilding & Renovating Show spokesperson, Jason Orme believes that with higher utility bills and the recent increase in VAT, installing energy efficient systems to your new build or renovation can make an immediate and significant difference to your energy bills.

Jason explains 10 ways to make your home greener and make both short and long term savings:

Insulation: Almost half of heat loss in a home is through the walls. Good and effective insulation keeps heat from escaping.

Solar heating: 30 per cent of the average household heating bill spent on heating water. Installing solar water heating can make you a saving of around £65 per year.

Water recycling: Water recycling methods can save between 30-50 per cent of a home's water requirements.

Heat pumps: Though actual savings figures will depend on your exact fuel prices, self-builders can expect to save an average of £250 a year on their energy bill by using heat pumps.

Biomass: Five years ago oil fuel was less than 20p per litre. It is now more than 63p — a rise of 175 per cent. Using biomass fuel can be cheaper.

Eco lighting: Energy saving light bulbs can last up to 10 times longer than ordinary bulbs. They cost as little as £3 and can save you up to £40 per year.

Boilers: Installing the right boiler will also make significant savings. The Energy Savings Trust estimates this to be up to £200 per year for the equivalent of 1.7 tonnes of carbon dioxide.

Secondary glazing: Installing a secondary glazing system which can be fitted easily to the window frame is a great way to keep energy from escaping your home.

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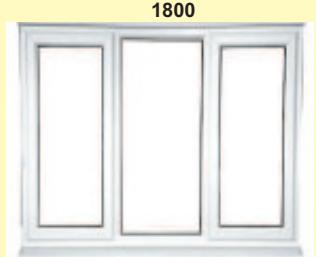
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the pulse

Price is right for this cool dude Jessie



Dan the man for Wulfrun

DAN Clark is heading off on a UK tour and brings his first stand-up show for three years which calls at Wolverhampton's Wulfrun Hall on April 7.

The star of BBC3's *How Not to Live Your Life* is promising to bring a warmer, more surreal show than his sitcom.

The 35-year-old (seen above) said: "It's a show that is split into two parts. The first half is stand-up, and the second is a mix of stand-up and songs."

His style of comedy has often been compared to Rik Mayall and Noel Fielding, the latter being a good friend of Clark's.

Clark first got into comedy in his teens, appearing in the legendary 'Heroes and Villains' episode of *Only Fools and Horses*.

He said: "I was one of the muggers Del and Rodney stumbled upon while dressed as Batman and Robin."

AFTER her explosive entry into the UK charts with debut single *Do It Like A Dude*, Jessie J has landed her first UK no1 with single *Price Tag* after the track selling an incredible 84,000 copies in just one week. Jessie J has well and truly cemented herself as the UK's hottest new diva, with a swagger and a personality as big as her belting, multi-octave vocal. She will be strutting her stuff live on stage this spring including a big Saturday night gig at Birmingham's O2 Academy on April 2.

Already the winner of both the coveted Critics Choice Brit Award and BBC Sound Of 2011 Poll, an amazing double for a brand new artist, Island Records moved the release of Jessie J's debut album *Who We Are* a whole month forward for its release this week due to phenomenal public demand.

Jessie J – real name Jessica Cornish – from London is a songwriter (she penned Party In The USA for Miley Cyrus) and now a hugely popular performer in her own right



AROUND THE SCENE... AROUND THE SCENE... AROUND THE SCENE

EAST END comic Micky Flanagan, the comedy star of last year's Royal Variety Performance, brings his razor-sharp observational wit to Wolverhampton Civic Hall on May 11 as one of the extras on tour. Tickets are £17.50.

UP-AND-COMING soul singer-songwriter Liam Bailey, who has been championed by Amy Winehouse and signed to her Lioness label, will be supporting Plan B at his gig at Wolverhampton Civic Hall tonight (Thurs) and is supporting Jessie J at Birmingham O2 Academy on April 2.

GLOBALLY, multi-million selling recording artist Charlie Landsborough releases his latest album *Love In A Song* on March 21 featuring classics

such as *Miss You Nights* and *The Wind Beneath My Wings*. Charlie shot to fame in 1995 and has won many country music awards. *Love In A Song* brings a contemporary feel into the recordings. He will be embarking on a 14-date UK spring tour taking in Birmingham's Alexandra Theatre on Sunday, March 27.

MARCH highlights at Bilston venue the Robin 2 include: Dutch 'symphonic' rockers Epica fronted by Simone Simons on March 10; 60s rockers The Pretty Things (12) Liverpool soul favourites The Real Thing (18) punk veterans Stiff Little Fingers (21) Britain's Got Talent sax man Julian Smith (26) I Wish I Was A Punk Rocker hit-maker Sandi Thom (27). For more details or to book call 01902 401211.

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the pulse

Find highbrow humour with Strauss' *Maus*

Another rural idyll features in Birmingham Royal Ballet's charming version of *La Fille mal garde*, choreographed by Frederick Ashton, at the Hippodrome to Saturday.

Waltz king Johann Strauss II's comic operetta *Die Fledermaus* is staged at the Hippodrome in Welsh National Opera's new production directed by John Copley on Wednesday (March 9) and again on Friday (March 11). In between, and on March 12, WNO stage Verdi's full-blooded tragedy *Il Trovatore*.



Strauss' *Die Fledermaus* with Alan Opie as Frank and Jo Boag as Adele. Picture: Clive Barda

RACHEL KAVANAUGH directs Lucy Calders' *Notes To Future Self*, about the daughters of a 'New Age' globetrotter who return to Birmingham, at the Man in Cannon Hill Park, Edgbaston, to March 12 before touring.

SCIENCE Museum Live on Tour aims to persuade youngsters that science is fun with explosive demonstrations on stage at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre on Wednesday at 1.30 and 7pm.

THE ORCHESTRA of the Swan present Beatrix Potter's Peter Rabbit and His Friends, a fancy dress treat with music and stories presented by children's TV favourite Lorna Laidlaw,

and involving hundreds of local schoolchildren. It's on at Birmingham Town Hall at 11am on Saturday. West End star, successful recording artist and Radio 2 DJ Elaine Paige will be in concert at the city's Symphony Hall on Monday.

WOMEN'S theatre group Foursight from Wolverhampton have joined forces with a male theatre group from Portugal for the grotesque and poignant *Pertencia*, staged at Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Icarus present their revamp of Hamlet at the Arena on March 10.

MORE comedy in Birmingham where on Saturday night, at the Crescent Theatre, Mrs

FOR COMEDY head to Wolverhampton, Richard Herring is in action on Saturday night at the Wulfrun Hall, Geordie comedian Sarah Millican has sold out her Wulfrun show on Sunday and *Shooting Stars'* burger van philosopher Angelos Epithemiou will be at the same venue on Wednesday. Lenny Henry returns to the Black Country with his show looking back at his life via music, *Cradle To Rave*, at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Thursday, March 10.

Barbara Nice introduces the characters created by the Black Country's Fizzogg Theatre group.

MUSICAL blockbuster *The Sound of Music*, with Verity Rushworth and Jason Donovan, ends its run at Stoke's Regent Theatre on Saturday. Then *Shaun The Sheep* stars in his own music and dance extravaganza *Shaun's Big Show* at the Regent from March 9 to 13.

THE FIRST full Shakespeare production in the magnificent new Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford features Greg Hicks as King Lear. David Farr's production is on until April 2.

Revival of traditional country drama to wit

A revival of the witty 19th Century English country drama *Cranford*, based on the classic book by Elizabeth Gaskell, is at Wolverhampton Grand from Monday for one week, starring Ben Roberts, best known as Chief Inspector Derek Conway in TV cop drama *The Bill*.

He will be alongside film, stage and television actress Hildegard Neil (who is married to Brian Blessed), former Grange Hill actress Karen Ford, and familiar TV faces Jake Hendriks (*Hollyoaks*) and Judy Buxton (*On The Up*).

This 60-year-old stage adaptation of the novel, made popular again by the star-studded BBC TV version, lets the audience look into the lives of the market town's residents, including a gaggle of gossiping ladies, but their domestic bliss is threatened by the spectre of financial ruin.

The Grand hosts Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, featuring Keith Jack in the coat of many colours, with matinee and evening performances today (Thursday), Friday, Saturday and Sunday.



Alicia Turrell and Hollyoaks' Jake Hendriks.

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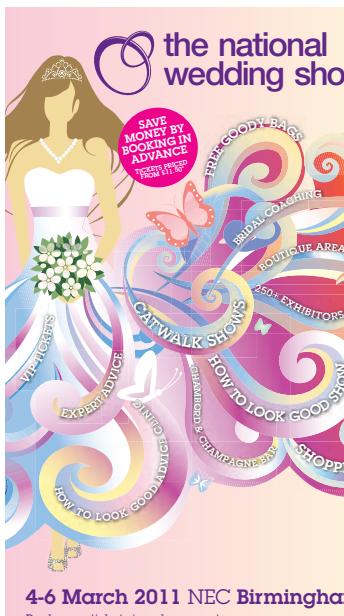
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the pulse

Monday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast, 8.15 Heil Hunters, 9.00 Homes Under the Hammer, BBC News; Weather, 10.00 Week of Ready!, 11.00 Cad in the Attic, BBC News; Weather, 12.15 Bargain Hunt, 1.00 BBC News; Weather, 1.15 Regional News; Weather, 1.45 Doctor Who, 1.45 Ecotricity, BBC News; Weather, 2.00 Regional News, 2.45 CBBC, 3.15 Weekend Link, 3.45 BBC News; Weather, 4.30 Regional News; Programme; Weather, 2.00 The One Show, 2.30 In Your Face, BBC News; Regional News, 3.00 Endemol, 3.30 Smoking and the Brain, 3.45 Motorway Cop, (F) 3.45 BBC News, 3.55 Regional News; Weather, 4.00 Brown Boy, 4.15 Live at the BBC, Weather, 4.25 Sign Zone, See Hear, (F) 4.25 Human Planet, (F) 4.35 The Apprentice, 4.45 Sign Zone, 4.55 Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein, (F) 4.55 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies, 2.00 CBBC, 8.30 CBeebies, 11.25 Meerkat Manor, (F) 8.30 Daily Politics, 12.30 GMT with George Alagiah, 1.00 Diamond Murder, (F) 1.15 To Buy or Not to Buy, 2.30 Nature's Top 10, (F) 3.00 Royal Flight, 3.35 Helicopter Heroes, (F) 3.45 Cad in the Attic, 4.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is, 4.30 Royal Wedding, 4.45 Royal Downstairs, 5.00 Wonder of the Universe, (F) 5.15 The Holy Bible: Music, Kings, Books, 5.30 Hobart Predator in Your Backyard, 5.45 How Far You'll Go, 6.00 University Challenge, 6.30 EastEnders, Kitchen Secrets, 6.45 When Teenage Meets Old Age, 6.45 Never Mind the Buzzcocks, (F) 6.50 Newcastle, Weather, 11.25 ICC Cricket World Cup Highlights, 12.30 Antidote, Finch, (F) 6.50 BBC News, 6.55 BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak, 8.00 Lorraine, 8.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show, 9.00 This Morning, 12.30 Loose Women, 1.00 ITV News; Weather, 1.45 Regional News; Weather, 2.00 House Gift, 3.00 The Alan Titchmarsh Show, 3.30 Royal Wedding, 4.00 Royal Wedding, 4.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is, 4.30 Royal Wedding, 4.45 Royal Downstairs, 5.00 Escape to the Country, (F) 5.15 The Holy Bible: Music, Kings, Books, 5.30 Hobart Predator in Your Backyard, 5.45 How Far You'll Go, 6.00 Newcastle, Weather, 11.25 ICC Cricket World Cup Highlights, 12.30 The Modern Age of Coach Travel, 1.00 BBC News, 9.00 BBC Learning Zone.

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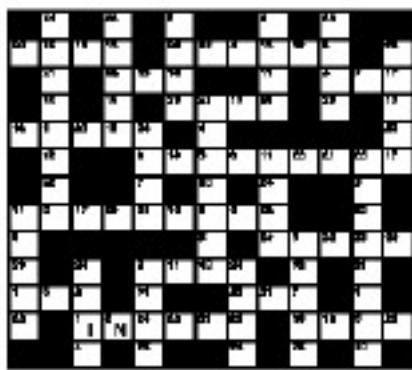
Channel 4 6.00 The Trade People, (F) 6.20 The Hooch, (F) 6.45 Everybody Loves Raymond, (F) 6.55 Freddie Squeezed, 7.00 Everybody Loves Raymond, (F) 6.45 Freddie Squeezed, 7.00 Everybody Loves Raymond, (F) 6.55 According to Jim, (F) 6.55 Superwoman USA, 7.00 The Good Wife, (F) 6.55 A Place in the Sun, Home or Away, (F) 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary, 12.45 River Cottage Extra, (F) 12.15 Film: The Long Memory, 13.00 Thriller, starring Richard Armitage, 13.30 Come Dine with Me, (F) 14.00 Come Dine with Me, (F) 14.30 Deal or No Deal, 15.00 Come Dine with Me, (F) 14.30 Coach Th., 6.00 The Simpson, (F) 6.30 Helicity, 7.00 Channel 4 News, 7.35 Thirsty, 8.00 Hedonist, 8.30 Gold b. Clothes, 9.00 Hedonist, 9.30 Hedonist Impossible, 10.00 Supermodel, 10.5 The Big C, 11.45 Freddie, (F) 12.15 UK, 13.00 The Big C, 14.00 Freddie, (F) 14.30 Come Dine with Me, (F) 14.30 Coach Th., 6.00 The Simpson, (F) 6.30 Helicity, 7.00 Channel 4 News, 7.35 Thirsty, 8.00 Hedonist, 8.30 Gold b. Clothes, 9.00 Hedonist, 9.30 Coach Th., 10.00 Come Dine with Me, (F) 10.30 Coach Th., 11.00 The Big C, 12.00 Freddie, 12.30 Come Dine with Me, (F) 12.30 Coach Th., 13.00 The Big C, 14.00 Freddie, 14.30 Come Dine with Me, (F) 14.30 Coach Th., 15.00 The Big C, 16.00 Freddie, 16.30 Come Dine with Me, (F) 16.30 Coach Th., 17.00 The Big C, 18.00 Freddie, 18.30 Come Dine with Me, (F) 18.30 Coach Th., 19.00 The Big C, 20.00 Freddie, 20.30 Come Dine with Me, (F) 20.30 Coach Th., 21.00 The Big C, 22.00 Freddie, 22.30 Come Dine with Me, (F) 22.30 Coach Th., 23.00 The Big C, 24.00 Freddie, 24.30 Come Dine with Me, (F) 24.30 Coach Th., 25.00 The Big C, 26.00 Freddie, 26.30 Come Dine with Me, (F) 26.30 Coach Th., 27.00 The Big C, 28.00 Freddie, 28.30 Come Dine with Me, (F) 28.30 Coach Th., 29.00 The Big C, 30.00 Freddie, 30.30 Come Dine with Me, (F) 30.30 Coach Th., 31.00 The Big C, 32.00 Freddie, 32.30 Come Dine with Me, (F) 32.30 Coach Th., 33.00 The Big C, 34.00 Freddie, 34.30 Come Dine with Me, (F) 34.30 Coach Th., 35.00 The Big C, 36.00 Freddie, 36.30 Come Dine with Me, (F) 36.30 Coach Th., 37.00 The Big C, 38.00 Freddie, 38.30 Come Dine with Me, (F) 38.30 Coach Th., 39.00 The Big C, 40.00 Freddie, 40.30 Come Dine with Me, (F) 40.30 Coach Th., 41.00 The Big C, 42.00 Freddie, 42.30 Come Dine with Me, (F) 42.30 Coach Th., 43.00 The Big C, 44.00 Freddie, 44.30 Come Dine with Me, (F) 44.30 Coach Th., 45.00 The Big C, 46.00 Freddie, 46.30 Come Dine with Me, (F) 46.30 Coach Th., 47.00 The Big C, 48.00 Freddie, 48.30 Come Dine with Me, (F) 48.30 Coach Th., 49.00 The Big C, 50.00 Freddie, 50.30 Come Dine with Me, (F) 50.30 Coach Th., 51.00 The Big C, 52.00 Freddie, 52.30 Come Dine with Me, (F) 52.30 Coach Th., 53.00 The Big C, 54.00 Freddie, 54.30 Come Dine with Me, (F) 54.30 Coach Th., 55.00 The Big C, 56.00 Freddie, 56.30 Come Dine with Me, (F) 56.30 Coach Th., 57.00 The Big C, 58.00 Freddie, 58.30 Come Dine with Me, (F) 58.30 Coach Th., 59.00 The Big C, 60.00 Freddie, 60.30 Come 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Brain Gym

No.106

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given hints to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

Z	B	E	J	Y	I	K	M	N	G	H	C	F	O	L	R	V	N	D	P	U	T	W
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Double Crossword

Classic or quickie cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across:

- 1. Head part and habitat in a main compartment of caravans (8,7)
- 2. Religious insect reading (10)
- 3. You especially dominate a day (12)
- 4. I try hard to get the monkey (6)
- 5. I'm not in it for the money (6)
- 6. Nothing doing (10)
- 7. Unlikely to use a term (10)
- 8. I'm around from the middle despite being caused (6)
- 9. I'm just not in the mood (6)
- 10. Klein's dream following a brain (1,1,7)

Down:

- 1. Was against a time indicator (9)
- 2. A playboy (6)
- 3. An answer (6)
- 4. I'm not in it for the money (6)
- 5. It's a long run (6)
- 6. I'm exactly right (6)
- 7. I'm just not in the mood (6)
- 8. I'm not in it for the money (6)
- 9. I'm around from the middle despite being caused (6)
- 10. Klein's dream following a brain (1,1,7)

Quickie Crossword:

Across:

- 1. Understanding (14)
- 2. Blue (4)
- 3. Klein (4)
- 4. Units of measure (mem) (6)
- 5. Skinner (6)
- 6. Dismay (6)
- 7. Imminently (6)
- 8. Dismay (6)
- 9. Dismay (6)
- 10. Klein's dream (6)
- 11. Klein's dream (6)
- 12. Klein's dream (6)
- 13. Klein's dream (6)
- 14. Dismay (6)
- 15. Imminently (6)
- 16. Imminently (6)
- 17. Klein's dream (6)
- 18. Dismay (6)
- 19. Klein's dream (6)
- 20. Klein's dream (6)
- 21. Klein's dream (6)

Down:

- 1. Summons (9)
- 2. Colour (6)
- 3. Easy (6)
- 4. Win (6)
- 5. Grief (6)
- 6. Imagine (6)
- 7. Imminently (6)
- 8. Dismay (6)
- 9. Dismay (6)
- 10. Klein's dream (6)
- 11. Klein's dream (6)
- 12. Klein's dream (6)
- 13. Klein's dream (6)
- 14. Dismay (6)
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- 16. Dismay (6)
- 17. Klein's dream (6)
- 18. Dismay (6)
- 19. Klein's dream (6)
- 20. Klein's dream (6)
- 21. Klein's dream (6)

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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD: 1. Klein (6), 2. Dismay (6), 3. Colour (6), 4. Win (6), 5. Grief (6), 6. Imagine (6), 7. Imminently (6), 8. Dismay (6), 9. Dismay (6), 10. Klein's dream (6), 11. Klein's dream (6), 12. Klein's dream (6), 13. Klein's dream (6), 14. Dismay (6), 15. Dismay (6), 16. Dismay (6), 17. Klein's dream (6), 18. Dismay (6), 19. Klein's dream (6), 20. Klein's dream (6), 21. Klein's dream (6).

Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be rearranged to form another common word. What are the three words, and in what sequence can they be put together to make one good question mark?



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Sudoku



Last week's solution: 1. 5, 2. 7, 3. 6, 4. 8, 5. 9, 6. 1, 7. 2, 8. 3, 9. 4, 10. 5, 11. 6, 12. 7, 13. 8, 14. 9, 15. 1, 16. 2, 17. 3, 18. 4, 19. 5, 20. 6, 21. 7, 22. 8, 23. 9, 24. 1, 25. 2, 26. 3, 27. 4, 28. 5, 29. 6, 30. 7, 31. 8, 32. 9, 33. 1, 34. 2, 35. 3, 36. 4, 37. 5, 38. 6, 39. 7, 40. 8, 41. 9, 42. 1, 43. 2, 44. 3, 45. 4, 46. 5, 47. 6, 48. 7, 49. 8, 50. 9, 51. 1, 52. 2, 53. 3, 54. 4, 55. 5, 56. 6, 57. 7, 58. 8, 59. 9, 60. 1, 61. 2, 62. 3, 63. 4, 64. 5, 65. 6, 66. 7, 67. 8, 68. 9, 69. 1, 70. 2, 71. 3, 72. 4, 73. 5, 74. 6, 75. 7, 76. 8, 77. 9, 78. 1, 79. 2, 80. 3, 81. 4, 82. 5, 83. 6, 84. 7, 85. 8, 86. 9, 87. 1, 88. 2, 89. 3, 90. 4, 91. 5, 92. 6, 93. 7, 94. 8, 95. 9, 96. 1, 97. 2, 98. 3, 99. 4, 100. 5, 101. 6, 102. 7, 103. 8, 104. 9, 105. 1, 106. 2, 107. 3, 108. 4, 109. 5, 110. 6, 111. 7, 112. 8, 113. 9, 114. 1, 115. 2, 116. 3, 117. 4, 118. 5, 119. 6, 120. 7, 121. 8, 122. 9, 123. 1, 124. 2, 125. 3, 126. 4, 127. 5, 128. 6, 129. 7, 130. 8, 131. 9, 132. 1, 133. 2, 134. 3, 135. 4, 136. 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Nice ice baby as stars melt hearts

AFTER wowing more than a million people across the country in previous years with stunning ice performances, skating legends Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean will embark on a fifth live UK tour of Dancing on Ice due to arrive in Birmingham in April.

This year's tour features more celebrity skaters from the current ITV1 series than ever



Cool customer Vanilla Ice has proved very popular on the show

before. Torvill and Dean will be joined by bookie's favourite EastEnders actor Sam Attwater, alongside TV presenter Chloe Madeley, Chris Moyles' sidekick Comedy Dave Vitty, children's TV presenter Laura Hamilton, Coronation Street and Loose Women's Denise Welch, singing legend Vanilla Ice and Victoria Cross winner Johnson Beharry.

The tour will also see the welcome return of Dancing on Ice 2010 winner, actress Hayley Tamaddon.

TV personality and one time King of the Jungle Christopher Biggins who debuted as a judge on 2010 tour, returns to the panel alongside skating gold medalist and TV judge Robin Cousins and head skating coach from the ITV series, Karen Barber.

Popular TV presenter Andi Peters returns to host the tour.

All of the celebrities will be trained and choreographed by Torvill and Dean, who will also perform routines choreographed exclusively for the live tour. One further celebrity skater is due to be announced.

Decide

The four-week UK tour starting in Sheffield, will also travel to Newcastle, Nottingham, London and Manchester.

At each performance the audience can vote for their favourite celebrity skater. Using the same format as the hit ITV1 show, Spectators can use their mobile phones to text vote for their favourite celebrity.

Audience votes will then be added to scores from the judges to decide the overall celebrity winner. The winning couple then take to



Tipped as a possible winner is Laura Hamilton

the ice for a finale performance.

As with previous tours, all profits from text voting will go to charity. More than £100,000 has been raised to date and has been donated to the Royal London Society For The Blind and Demelza Hospice Care for Children.

The tour starts in Sheffield on Saturday, April 9 and is due to move to Birmingham's NIA on Friday, April 15 and run through there until Monday, April 18. Evening

shows take place at 7.30pm on April 15, 16, 18, and 6.30pm on April 17. Afternoon shows are at 2.30pm on April 16 and 1.30pm on April 17. Vanilla Ice cannot perform during the shows on Saturday, April 16.

Vanilla Ice will not be performing at all the shows.

- To book tickets call 08444 99 99 55 or log onto www.dancingoniceritour.co.uk
- Tickets - priced from £32.50 (plus booking fee)

REVIEWS

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Grand Theatre

THE nation's most familiar musical, thanks to countless school productions, finally gives Keith Jack the opportunity to wear the coat of many colours in a touring show which opened in Wolverhampton on Tuesday.

The little Scotsman with puppy dog eyes and a big voice, who came second to Lee Mead in BBC1's Any Dream Will Do, 2007's search for a Joseph to star in the show's West End revival, at last takes centre stage in this version of the evergreen musical based on a biblical story.

For forty years old, the first collaboration between Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice, who, incidentally, recently reunited to write new songs for The Wizard of Oz which was having its first night on Tuesday at the London Palladium, is as fresh and fun as ever.

Tinie Tempah, O2 Academy

EXACTLY one year ago 22-year-old rapper Tinie Tempah released his debut single. Now the double Brit Award winner is showcasing sell-out gigs across the country.

As he bounced on to the stage at Birmingham's O2 Academy, the crowd, many sporting Tinie's signature spectacles, roared with excitement. Joined by a live band and DJ Charley, Tinie kicked off with his latest release, Wonderclan - a collaboration with Ellie Goulding.

The effortless performance was mesmerising and from the outset it was clear to see that this was just the beginning of a career that many artists can only dream of. With the crowd hanging on Tinie's every word his modesty was humbling. He said: "This show in Birmingham has got to be the best yet. I love it and I love you DJ."

James Blunt, Civic Hall, Wolverhampton

JAMES Blunt can best be described as the Marmite of pop – you either love him or hate him. In Wolverhampton at least, he falls into the former category judging by the crowd reaction.

On his 37th birthday, the former Army officer launched into four straight songs before taking time out to chat to the sell-out crowd.

By the end of a set that included

This is thanks to Rice's jocular lyrics and the many musical styles lampooned, ranging from country and rock 'n' roll to calypso and French 'chanson'.

Jack was charming and held up well against the scene-stealing turn by Adam Jarrell as the Elvis Presley-like Pharoah.

The most impressive performance of the night was Jennifer Potts as the Narrator and the choir from Tattenhall College did their city proud.

The show is guaranteed standing ovations, especially as a disco mix final medley of the show's songs and the reprise of Any Dream Will Do suggests the hard working cast will not let up when you stand up and clap along.

It will continue to Go Go Joseph at the Grand to Saturday.

LEON BURAKOWSKI

One girl was the envy of the room as she joined Tinie on stage to celebrate her 15th birthday.

He added: "If I could get you all on stage I would. It's because of you and your support that I am here today, I can't thank you enough."

The academy lit up when Tinie encouraged fans to take a picture as he performed his new single, Snap. It was a vision that the London-born rapper said he would remember forever.

The full-capacity crowd never tired of jumping along to an array of the star's chart hits.

After two encores, Tinie, who as toured with the likes of Usher, Pharrell Williams and Rihanna, ended the night with his single of the year, Pass Out.

SARAH HAZELWOOD

favourites including You're Beautiful and Goodbye My Lover, as well as songs from new album Some Kind of Trouble, he had the majority of his fans up in their seats dancing.

Blunt ended with 1973, but I still couldn't help but think of Gavin & Stacey's Uncle Bryn during the performance of Wisemen.

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Autumn Cottage, Mustow Green, Kidderminster

Superbly presented and recently built individual 4 bedroom detached house in prime location. Impressive Reception Hall, 19ft Lounge, Separate Lounge. Splendid 24ft Breakfast Kitchen, Utility Room, Shower Room, Magnificent House Bathroom, Double Garage.

PRICE: £475,000



Woodhampton End, Weather Lane, Astley Burf

Country property with adjoining two storey annexe cottage, ideal for dual family occupation. Three principal bedrooms, bathroom and shower room, splendid lounge (21ft x 16ft) 20ft. breakfast kitchen & utility. Annexe has open plan lounge and kitchen with wonderfully spacious en-suite master bedroom above.

PRICE: £429,000



Carpenters, Worcester Road, Hartlebury

Carpenters is a wonderful opportunity to acquire a stunning three bedroomed detached bungalow with two bedrooned detached hangar annex also an adjoining paddock, two stables and tack room. The property is conveniently situated on the outskirts of Hartlebury village. Reception Hall, Lounge with Log Burner, Farmhouse style Breakfast Kitchen, Utility, Three Double Bedrooms, Occasional Bedroom Four or Hobbies Room, House Bathroom, Annex, Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen, Two Bedrooms and Bathroom and En-suite, Paddock with two Stables and Tack Room, garage (IPG) and a large Ample Paddock.

PRICE: £385,000



Wannerton Road, Blakelaw

Four bedroom detached house in head of cul-de-sac position at this sought after address. Reception Hall and Cloakroom, 24ft through Lounge, Separate Dining Room, 21ft Breakfast Kitchen, Bathroom and En-suite Shower Room, Double Garage.

PRICE: £365,000



Threlfall Drive, Bewdley

An immaculately presented four bedroom David Wilson built family home. Reception Hall, Cloakroom and Understairs Cupboard, Lounge, Dining Room, Breakfast Kitchen, Utility, Integral Garage. Four Generous Bedrooms, all with Fitted Wardrobes, one En-suite Shower Room and House Bathroom. Outside Multi Parking to the Front, Attractive Landscape Gardens to the rear, Double Glazed. Gas Fired Central Heating.

PRICE: £349,950



Lower Lickhill Road, Stourport on Severn

Well situated individual detached property standing well back in large gardens. Four double Bedrooms, Two Bathrooms, Excellent 25ft Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Study, Kitchen, Utility Room, Triple Garage, GCH, DG, Super Family Home.

PRICE: £325,000



Lea Barn, Castle Barns, Cookley

Beautiful 3 bedroom single storey barn conversion in idyllic rural surroundings. Wonderful 20ft lounge, 19ft Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Full Range of Integral Kitchen Appliances, Well Appointed Bathroom and En-suite, Garage and Parking. Generous Private Garden with Open Aspect.

PRICE: £299,995



Areley Common, Stourport on Severn

An especially well presented and spacious four bedroom detached cottage enjoying a much sought after village location. Reception Hall, 31ft Lounge, 26ft 10in L-shaped Dining Kitchen, sitting room, four Double Bedrooms, En-suite Wet Room, Walk in Wardrobe, House Bathroom, Cellar. Generous Southerly facing Gardens.

PRICE: £299,950



Grove Cottage, Kidderminster

Three bed detached character cottage set in around 0.25 acre bordered by stream and adjacent farmland. Lounge with feature fireplace, 15ft dining room, conservatory, kitchen with pantry and utility, 15ft master bedroom, parking and carport, lovely semi-rural position, no upward chain

PRICE: £242,950



Wardle Way, Wolverley

Double fronted three bedroom property in popular location, close to open countryside. 18ft Through Lounge, L-shaped Kitchen/Diner, Gas Central Heating, Majority uPVC Double Glazing, Pleasant rear gardens, Vehicular access to rear.

PRICE: £159,000



Staite Drive, Cookley

Smart, modern two bedroom end terrace cottage in sought after village. Lounge with Feature fireplace, Breakfast Kitchen, Two Bedrooms & Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, UPVC Double Glazing, Views over Countryside.

PRICE: £124,995



Westley Court, Austcliffe Lane, Cookley

Splendid first floor retirement apartment with wonderful views over countryside. Prestigious apartment complex for over 55s, excellent on-site amenities and set in 4 acres of gardens. Lounge with Juliette balcony, open plan kitchen, double bedroom with bathroom off.

PRICE: £87,950

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PROPERTY SERVICES

SILVERDALE GARDENS, WORDSLEY


An impressive and spacious five bedroom detached family home located in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises of Entrance hall, through lounge, diner, large breakfast kitchen, stairs down stairs WC. The first floor has 5 bedrooms and the master bedroom has built in wardrobes and an en-suite. The property further benefits from double glazing, gas central heating and enclosed rear garden, garage and off road parking to the fore. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO CHILDREN: YES

£1200 PCM

FAIRFIELD ROAD, WORDSLEY


An exceptionally well presented 5/6 Bedroom Semi-Detached Family Home in a popular location. Property comprises of Large Lounge, Dining Room, Conservatory, Five Bedrooms and Study (6th Bedroom). The property further benefits from Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing and a Detached Garage. The Enclosed Garden contains a large decking area. UNFURNISHED CHILDREN: YES PETS: YES SMOKERS: NO DSS: NO

£795 PCM

LYCHGATE AVENUE, PEDMORE


An extremely well presented three bedroom semi-detached property situated in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises of lounge, dining room, kitchen, ground floor shower room with WC, three bedrooms and house bathroom. The property further benefits from double glazing and central heating, enclosed single garage and garden. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO CHILDREN: YES

£625 PCM

COLLIS STREET, AMBLECOTE


A much improved and well presented two bedroom end terrace. Having an arrangement of accommodation with many notable features including gas central heating and UPVC double glazing. The accommodation comprises: Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom and Two Bedrooms. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£525 PCM

CHARLES ROAD


A well presented 2 bedroom property located in a popular location. to comprise: Entrance hall, Lounge, Two bedrooms, Bathroom and storage cupboard. Property currently being re-furbished. UNFURNISHED CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO DSS: NO

£525 PCM

JOHN STREET, WORDSLEY


An unfurnished three bed mid terrace property, situated in a popular residential location, accommodation comprises of: lounge, cellar, dining room, fitted kitchen, bathroom and three bedrooms. The property further benefits from gas central heating, majority double glazing and enclosed rear garden. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO PETS: NO CHILDREN: YES SMOKERS: NO

£450 PCM

CANTERBURY CLOSE, ROWLEY REGIS


A very well presented two bedroom apartment situated on the first floor. The accommodation comprises of entrance hall, lounge, kitchen and two bedrooms and bathroom with shower. The property also benefits from allocated parking space and communal grounds. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO PETS: MAY CONSIDER CHILDREN: MAY CONSIDER SMOKERS: NO

£395 PCM

DADFORD VIEW, BRIERLEY HILL


A well presented one bedroom ground floor apartment situated in a popular residential location and benefitting from double glazing and allocated parking. The accommodation comprises: Entrance Porch, Open plan Lounge/Kitchen, Inner Hall with built-in airing cupboard, Bathroom and Bedroom. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO SMOKERS: NO PETS: NO

£395 PCM

WILTSHIRE DRIVE, LYDE GREEN


A well presented and refurbished one bedroom first floor flat in a popular residential location. The accommodation comprises: Entrance hall with staircase to first floor landing, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom and Double Bedroom. The property further benefits from GCH, Double Glazing and allocated parking. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO SMOKERS: NO PETS: NO

£395 PCM



Old Mill Farmhouse, Bromsgrove Road, Cleint. An impressive Five Bedroom Property covering Three Stories, being set in a Highly Sought After Rural Location. Accommodation comprises: Situated on the Ground Floor - Three Sitting Rooms, Kitchen, Utility, Downstairs Cloakroom, Large Rear Garden, Double Garage and Two, both with En-Suites and Bedroom Three in addition to En-Suite which has a large Lobby. On the Second Floor are Bedrooms Four and Five, together with a Family Bathroom. The property further benefits from a Double Garage, Storage Buildings and outside WC. The Property is approached by a Private Drive, leading to a Court Yard. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£2500 PCM



Albert Street, Lye. A two bedroom period terrace property in a popular residential location, to comprise, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, hallway, lobby and bathroom. The property also benefits from a rear garden. Overall the property is in good condition throughout and has been re-furnished. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£550 PCM



Henzel Croft, Off Moor Street, Brierley Hill. A beautifully presented two bedroom 2nd floor apartment situated in a new development close to Brierley Hill and Merry Hill centre. The accommodation comprises: Entrance hall, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Living Room, Two Bedrooms, Bathrooms and Separate WC. There are front lawns to the front of the property and Communal Gardens to the rear. Garageing may be available on application. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO DSS: NO

£525 PCM



Dean Road, Wombourne, Wolverhampton. A very spacious Ground Floor Two Bedroom Apartment located in a delightful cul-de-sac just off Wombourne Village. Accommodation comprises: Entrance hall, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Living Room, Two Bedrooms, Bathrooms and Separate WC. There are front lawns to the front of the property and Communal Gardens to the rear. Garageing may be available on application. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO DSS: NO

£525 PCM



The Embankment, Merry Hill, Brierley Hill. An extremely well presented two bedroom apartment located closely to all amenities of the Merry Hill Centre. Accommodation comprises of entrance hall, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Living Room, Two Bedrooms, Bathrooms and Separate WC. There are front lawns to the front of the property and Communal Gardens to the rear. Garageing may be available on application. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO DSS: NO

£525 PCM



The Quarter Clarence Street, Lower Gornal. An extremely well presented two bedroom terrace property situated in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises of lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from double glazing and allocated parking. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO DSS: NO

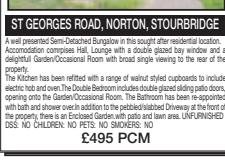
£525 PCM



Highfield Road, Colley Gate.

A very well presented Two Bedroom End Terrace Property in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises of lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor WC, Two Double Bedrooms. The property further benefits from GCH, double glazing, rear garden and block paved fore garden. DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£495 PCM



St Georges Road, Norton, Stourbridge. A well presented Semi-Detached Bungalow in this sought after residential location. A Spacious Lounge with a large inglenook bay window and a separate Garden Room. The property further benefits from double glazing and electric heating. The Kitchen includes double glazed upstands to include electric hob and oven. The Double Bedroom includes double glazed sliding patio doors opening onto the Garden/Occasional Room. The Bathroom has been re-appointed with bath and shower over bath to add to the overall appeal of the property. The property further benefits from a paved fore garden and block paved rear garden. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£495 PCM



Attwood Street, Wollescote.

A well presented Two Bedroom mid-terrace property. Accommodation to comprise: Lounge, Fitted Kitchen including cooker, Two Bedrooms and House Bathroom. This property also benefits from double glazing and central heating. Street Parking. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£475 PCM



Foxdale Drive, Brierley Hill.

A very well presented One Bedroom House in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises of Lounge, Fitted Kitchen including oven and Hob, Bedroom with both Over and Under Bed Storage, Bedroom with storage and Bathroom with a white suite and Shower. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£425 PCM



The Broadway, Norton.

A very well presented two bedroom first floor apartment situated close to Merry Hill and Brierley Hill town centre. The accommodation comprises of entrance hall, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Living Room, Two Bedrooms, Bathrooms and Separate WC. There are front lawns to the front of the property and Communal Gardens to the rear. Garageing may be available on application. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£400 PCM



Victoria Court, Victoria Street, Brierley Hill.

An extremely well presented one bedroom first floor apartment situated close to Merry Hill and Brierley Hill town centre. The accommodation comprises of entrance hall, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Living Room, Two Bedrooms, Bathrooms and Separate WC. There are front lawns to the front of the property and Communal Gardens to the rear. Garageing may be available on application. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£385 PCM



Bridgnorth Road, Wollaston.

A one bedroom first floor apartment with accommodation to comprise of lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom and bedroom. The property benefits from double glazing and electric heating. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£375 PCM



St Georges Road, Netherton.

An extremely well presented one bedroom starter home with easy access to Dudley Town Centre. The property includes an entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, double bedroom and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating and majority double glazing. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: YES SMOKERS: YES

£375 PCM



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Dove Drive, Amblecote.

An extremely well presented one bedroom first floor apartment situated in a popular residential location. The accommodation comprises of entrance hall, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Lounge, Double bedroom and bathroom. The property further benefits from storage heating, double glazing and allocated parking and communal gardens. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£370 PCM



The Workshop, Toys Lane, Halesowen.

Single storey brick built workshop premises previously used as joinery workshop and garage. The property includes a single garage, office, kitchen, bathroom and bedroom. The eaves is approximately 9' 7" (2.9 m) with entrance doors, w.c. and lean to, corrugated sheeted storage area and shared gated access. Overall size of workshop is approximately 847 sq ft (79m²). Lean to approximately 461 sq.ft (43m²). All offers considered £250 PCM

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HYUNDAI i10

ROAD TEST

City car small, but no lightweight

For all the doom and gloom of 2010, one car brand shone extra bright: Hyundai.

Although it's happy to acknowledge that the Government's scrappage scheme played its part, it does help if you have the right product in the first place.

Post-scrappage the company is still doing great business, and nowhere is this more obvious than with the little i10.

It feels like an age away since buyers were prepared to wait months for the diminutive hatchback, but they all knew what they were doing.

And, just to prove that you can't afford to stand still in this business, Hyundai has given the already successful i10 hatchback a mild refresh in a bid to keep it ahead of the pack.

Nose

Cosmetically the i10 benefits from Hyundai's new family nose. This design theme is already present on the larger ix35, and is set to be the norm on future models. On the mechanical front the car's 1.2-litre petrol motor is now cleaner, more efficient and more powerful. Also, replacing the 1.1-litre unit is a new three-cylinder, 68bhp 1.0-litre engine. This forms the basis of Hyundai's eco-centric i10 Blue variant.

This high-tech three-cylinder engine achieves an impressive 67.3mpg on the combined cycle and boasts a con-



It's surprisingly capable on the road



The cabin is spacious and refined



Small yet perfectly formed – Hyundai's refreshed i10 is both attractive and affordable

gestion charge and VED-friendly 99g/km CO2 rating.

Even if you don't live in or plan on making regular trips to London to offset the Blue variant's slightly higher price, the 85bhp 1.2 unit delivers 61.4mpg and an equally impressive 108g/km CO2 rating. Engine stop-start technology is also thrown in.

The i10 is something of a refreshing

surprise in what is an incredibly competitive market. What makes it special is Hyundai's decision to treat its mini model as something bigger. You only have to look around the car's cabin to realise that you can leave your hair shirt at home.

You want air conditioning? No problem. Electric front windows? Absolutely. Somewhere to plug in your

MP3 player? You bet. Seriously, this is what the i10 is really like – anything but a budget runabout – and it's one of the reasons why buyers flocked to the outgoing model in their droves.

It might appear no larger than most other cars on the market but appearances are deceptive. Five doors are the norm here, yet the i10 is easily able to accommodate four adults. Substi-

tute two of the grown-ups for children and you could even be looking at your first family car.

The i10 is also more capable on the road than you might think. With its direct and accurate steering, supple ride and refined cabin, it would appear that compromise has been ripped out of Hyundai's corporate dictionary.

With its eager hum and refined char-

acter, the 1.2-litre i10 is more than capable of keeping up with the rush hour traffic and never feels out of place on the motorway. And the unit's eager nature makes light work of the point-and-squirt urban environment.

There's no question that the engine's added oomph and the slick five-speed manual gearbox helps. A four-speed auto is also available for the 1.2 variant.

Cousin

The i10 Blue isn't far behind, either. It gets by with less power but the three-pot motor's willingness easily outweighs any on paper deficiencies.

The i10 Blue is more of a city car than its more powerful four-cylinder cousin, but never feels out of puff away from the city limits. The i10 is a good car – it drives well, feels solid and is exceptionally practical. That it comes equipped more like an entry-level family hatch is a bonus. Add the five-year warranty and it's clear that i10 is no lightweight.

IAIN DOOLEY

FACTS AT A GLANCE

Model: Hyundai i10 1.0 Blue, from £9,195 on the road. i10 range from £8,195.

Engine: 1.0-litre petrol unit developing 68bhp.

Transmission: Five-speed manual transmission as standard, driving the front wheels.

Performance: Maximum speed 93mph, 0-62mph 14.8 seconds.

Economy: 67.3mpg.

CO2 rating: 99g/km.



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'60' Plate 'New' ASTRA 2.0 DTi SRi 5-door	£22,515		£15,990	£6,525
'60' Plate INSIGNIA 2.0 CDTi SRi Tourer	£25,635		£18,990	£6,645
'10' Plate ZAFIRA 1.9 CDTi DESIGN	£24,980		£14,590	£10,390
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New Peugeot 308 to be one of the highlights at Geneva show

IN 2010, the year of its 200th anniversary, Peugeot achieved an all-time global sales record, up 16.3 per cent to 2.142 million units.

To continue this momentum in 2011, the French firm is unveiling more new products at the Geneva Motor Show, reaffirming its environmental leadership and offering its vision of the transport of tomorrow.

Among the highlights of its Geneva presentation is the new 308.

After three and a half years on the market, with 900,000 models sold in more than 100 countries

(including some 84,000 in the UK) the 308 gets a new look and makes its global debut at the show.

The new 308 subtly incorporates the marque's new design language and all three body shapes, Hatchback, SW (estate)

and Coupe/Cabriolet feature a look which is both sophisticated and dynamic.

Dynamic

While the new 308 confirms the dynamic excellence for which the car has been renowned since its launch, it now sets the benchmark in terms of environmental efficiency, with contributing factors including weight reduced by 25kg, tyres with ultra-low rolling resistance, redesigned aerodynamics and optimised

engines. With the new 308 being launched in the UK at the end of April, Peugeot reaffirms its ambitions in a traditional stronghold, the large touring car segment.

The new car will offer Saloon or SW body styles, a wide choice of economic petrol and diesel engines ranging from 112 to 204 bhp and its innovative equipment, the 308 is a modern car fully attuned to the aspirations of dynamic, demanding and responsible customers.

At Geneva, the RCZ will be displayed as an 'Asphalt' limited edition model which will be available later in the spring.

It stands out from the 200bhp production version by its exclusive matt grey body colour, its two-tone 19-inch wheels and numerous distinctive features

both outside and inside that give it a sporty appearance.

Launched in the spring of 2010, the RCZ has already attracted more than 17,000 customers in Europe (2,500 in the UK). With its launch of the world's first diesel hybrid vehicle, from mid-2011, Peugeot presents a new offer in terms of environmental efficiency and driving sensations.

On the 308 Crossover, the hybridisation of a diesel engine (2.0 HDI FAP163 bhp) driving the front wheels and an electric motor with a capacity of 37bhp at the rear sets the scene for four-wheel drive, a maximum power output of 200bhp, a "zero emission" mode and standardised average fuel consumption of 74.3 mpg.

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CITROEN	C3 PICASSO 1.6 HDI 90 MPV EXCLUSIVE	BLACK	18/08/2010	£17,825	£11,999	£5,626
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Volkswagen reviving cabrio version of Golf



The VW Golf Cabriolet is slightly smaller than the Eos. First UK deliveries are expected in September.

VOLKSWAGEN'S all-new Golf Cabriolet is being unveiled at the current Geneva Motor Show.

The two-door, four-seater, front-engined soft top is the first Golf Cabriolet available since the Mk IV.

It builds on the company's heritage for producing popular convertibles which started with the original Beetle cabriolet and continues today with the Eos.

With sales of around 1.42 million units, Volkswagen is one of the world's most successful producers of convertibles.

The latest Golf Cabriolet marks a whole new era of open-top motoring, boasting an electrically-powered soft top which can be lowered in just 9.5 seconds including on the move at speeds up to

around 18mph, a range of efficient petrol and diesel engines as well as the highest levels of quality, refinement and safety.

The Golf Cabriolet is smaller than the Eos, though both cars share the same wheelbase. From the front the new model is unmistakeably a Golf, and adopts the now familiar 'face' incorporating the latest Volkswagen design DNA.

Raked

The heavily raked windscreen gives it a sportier appearance than the hatchback model, while at the rear, new LED lights and a deep crease in the bootlid endow the new Golf Cabriolet with its own individual style.

Inside the Golf Cabriolet's appearance matches very closely that of the hatchback, adopting the

same high-quality materials and design. The new Golf Cabriolet will be offered in the UK with a choice of trim levels - S, SE and GT - and all will have a high level of standard specification.

As customers would expect from any car in the Golf family, the Cabriolet will be equipped with the highest levels of safety equipment. This will include an active roll-over protection system, ABS, ESP, airbags all round and a driver's knee airbag.

A choice of six engines will be available.

Volkswagen UK plans to begin taking orders for the new Golf Cabriolet in July, with the first customer orders arriving in September.

More details and pricing information will be available closer to launch.

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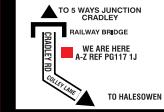
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Trade In	£3,731.00
Amount of Credit	£10,764.00

CHARGES FOR CREDIT

Interest Charges	£0.00
Credit Arrangement Fees	£0.00
Total Charge for Credit	£0.00
Total of Subsequent Payments	£10,764.00

REPAYMENTS

First Repayment	£299.00
Followed by 34 Monthly Repayments of	£299.00
Followed by 1 Monthly Repayment of	£299.00
Total Amount Payable	£14,495.00
APR	0.0%
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GLASSBOYS DIG DEEP FOR A WIN

Evesham United 2 Stourbridge 3

INJURY-HIT Stourbridge picked up their fifth away league victory of the season as they took maximum points at St George's Lane. Following a polished first-half showing they dug deep after the interval as the Robins fought back hard.

The Glassboys began well on Tuesday night with Aaron Drake squandering an early opportunity before Linden Dovey turned and cracked a 25-yard low drive wide in the ninth minute.

Three minutes later Gary Hackett's men opened the scoring when Ryan Rowe exchanged passes with Linden Dovey before being tripped inside the penalty area and Dovey stepped forward to send Nathan Vaughan the wrong way with his spot-kick.

Rowe finds the net – but it's all a mistake

Stourbridge 2 Truro 2

THE Glassboys fought back from two goals down to pick up a hard-earned point against the Zamarett Premier leaders.

But the talking point on Saturday came with 10 minutes to go when a Stourbridge goal was chalked off.

A clash of heads led to an untested drop ball for Ryan Rowe to punt downfield and return possession to the visitors.

Unfortunately a combination of Rowe's beef and a strong following wind saw the ball sail over Truro keeper Martin Rice and into the net.

Following a long pause the referee took the drop ball again although Stourbridge assistant boss Jon Ford confirmed afterwards that, had the goal been given, Truro would have been allowed to walk in an equaliser.

Skidded

Stourbridge had fallen behind on 18 minutes from a breakaway goal. A Glassboys free-kick was cleared by Joe Broad up to halfway where Barry Hayles' delightful pass released Andy Taylor to advance on goal and lash a superb right-foot shot past Lewis Solly and into the top corner.

With 27 minutes gone the Cornish side doubled their advantage with another clinical finish. Josh Craddock was dispossessed and Jake Ash hit a curling shot into the top corner.

The Glassboys got back into the game and struck six minutes before the interval when a corner by Dyson dropped invitingly for Leon Broadhurst at the far post to fire home.

And they levelled after 65 minutes when Paul Lloyd delivered a cross from the right and Dovey headed the ball down and across for Rowe to bundle home. That was to be the last goal!

Evesham might have levelled five minutes later as Leo Brown swept the ball wide to James Blake on the right and his cross bounced through to Jamie Hyde who skied his shot over the bar.

Stourbridge continued to move the ball well and they went close on 23 minutes as Paul McCone and Paul Lloyd combined before Rowe laid the ball off for Drake on the edge of the box to turn and curl a shot narrowly over.

Evesham responded with Leo Brown getting on the end of a right-wing cross, but his header was too close to Solly.

The Glassboys struck again though in the 34th minute to extend their advantage. A long clearance forward from Leon Broadhurst was chased by Dovey who shrugged off Zac Costello before breaking away and unselfishly squaring the ball across for an unmarked Rowe to take a touch before slotting coolly past Vaughan for his 50th goal for the club.

The confident Rowe then drilled a long-range effort wide two minutes later before Evesham made a double substitution. Isaac Shaze could have made an immediate impact following his introduction but his free-kick provided Solly with a comfortable save.

Safely

On the stroke of half-time Jamie Oliver produced a strong run towards the Evesham box and he fired in a low drive that Vaughan held safely.

Two minutes into the second period it was game on as the home side reduced the arrears with Shaze fastening onto a through ball down the middle from Craig Wilding before rounding Solly to score the ball into an unguarded net.

In the 53rd minute a long free-kick from Vaughan was headed back towards the goal by Andy Jones and Wilding put his header wide at the near post and soon afterwards Shaze had a low shot saved by Solly by his near post.

Stourbridge restored their two-goal cushion in the 62nd minute with Drake sending in a corner from the right and Nathan Bennett stooped low to guide a header past Vaughan.

Evesham looked to hit back and a mistake by sub James Cooper in dealing with a long diagonal ball let in Blake who shot into the side netting.

David Accam did pull a goal back in the 86th minute when he shot home past Solly from the left-hand side of the area and in a nervous finish, Hyde flashed a shot wide.

One old, one new to complete the Heathens

DUDLEY Heathens have completed their 2011 speedway line-up with one old face and one new one.

Richard Franklin returns from last season's side and is joined by 21-year-old Luke Chessell, who will track at reserve with Darryl Ritchings. The names were revealed by team boss Will Pottinger at a sold-out Cradley Heath Liberal Club on Friday night.

"We wanted to try to keep as many riders as possible from last year's team," said Pottinger.

"Richard is only 18 and still has development in him."

"Luke contacted me in the winter and was very keen to ride for us," he added.

"He impressed me during the British under-21 semi-final when he was a last corner away from qualify-

ing for the final. He's keen to put my phone going off, to be honest," said the Cumbrian. "It was

a really warm welcome and just shows what the support is like here."

"I walked in here before and saw all the people queuing – I couldn't believe how many people were here."

Royon will double up with Redcar but reassured the Heathens fans on his availability for matches.

Heavy going for Saxons



Not the creature from the black lagoon but Ben Hughes showing the effects of a muddy pitch

Stourbridge edged out by their Midlands neighbours

Stourbridge 0 Cinderford 11

CINDERFORD took the points back to the Forest of Dean after edging out their neighbours at muddy Stourton Park.

A try and a penalty midway through the second half, when the home side were down to 14 men, proved the turning point writes David Lawrence.

Stourbridge began well and centre Tom Jarvis thought he had handed the Saxons an opening try on nine minutes. Chris Surman's neat chip towards the visitors' line set up a run chase. Jarvis appeared to have won but the officials opted to hand the home side a five-metre scrum instead.

Further chances came and went, Ben Sparks just failing to gather a bullet pass from Peter White under the posts.

Cinderford break midway through the half almost saw them chalk up the first points through Dan Trigg but he was sent crashing by Jarvis' timely tackle. Trigg finally broke the deadlock with a penalty for the visitors and late in the half when Cinderford winger Nevaro Codlin was sin binned for a deliberate knock-on.

The Saxons still looked a threat early in the second period but failed to make their extra man count. Having kept the home side at bay, Cinderford wrapped the game up in a 10-minute spell when Stourbridge number eight Matt Thomas was in the bin for repeat offending. A second Trigg penalty doubled the lead and the pack made their extra man count with a pushover try for Gregg Evans.



Charlie Hayter tries to gather a high ball for the Saxons

Successful night for swimmers

STOURBRIDGE Swimming Club enjoyed a prolific evening in the second round of the Worcester Winter League.

Three swimmers – Tom McCallum, Adam Horton and Becki Cole – won two events each while eight other Stourbridge members from the 25-strong team enjoyed individual race victories.

They were Alex Westwood, Bethan Walters, Ellie Lord, Emily Bennett, Madison Brookes, Nat Dingley, Rich Spoor and Sam Tromans.

Other winners on the night included the unbeaten under-13s relay teams of Aimee Sanders, Emily Bennett, Adam Horton, Emma Pay, Tom McCallum, Madison Brookes and Miles Pountain.

Tom McCallum gave arguably the performance of the event when he won the 100metre breaststroke by 10 seconds, nearly a length clear of the field.

Team manager Jason Thom praised his achievement. "To put this amount of water between you and your nearest rival over just four lengths is absolutely unbelievable," he said.

Slender

"Tom is one of our many up and coming young swimmers who will hopefully follow in the footsteps of other Stourbridge Swimming Club members and go on to represent Great Britain."

Stourbridge had a slender four-point lead over Worcester A at halfway but fell just short in the closing races despite a win in the final relay of the night from Hannah Williams, Rich Spoor, Ellie Lord, Joe Horne, Becki Cole and Nick Crucible.

Anyone interested in joining the club, who must be six or over, should call head coach Stew Nicklin on 07834 689178.

Bustleholme in good form

Bustleholme 3 Shawbury 0

BUSTLEHOLME continued their good run of form to stay third in the West Midlands Premier.

On the hour Ryan Trumpeter who fed Adam Wattley for a smart finish. Bustleholme got their second through Matty Jukes and Jamie Clews scored a late goal.

Girls League Halas Hawks 2 Sedgley 1

HALAS Hawks under-12 girls hit the post three times in their win over Sedgley White Lions.

Despite some skilful passing they fell behind in the first half but equalised through Bethan Bryan just before half-time. Sophie Heaselgrave scored the second-half winner.

Halas Hawks 3 Gornal 2

The under-13s went two goals down to Gornal 2 but showed character to level by half-time with goals from Amy Blakemore and Sophie Blount.

The second half saw Halas squander several chances before Sophie Pritchard put away a Blakemore corner.

Boys League Warstones 3 Halas Hawks East 1

The under-nines East travelled with the bare seven players and fell two goals behind in the first half. A long-range solo goal from Louie Jones got them back in the hunt but Warstones' third goal left them with too much to do.

Old Wulfrunians 6 Halas Hawks West 0

The under-12s West lost 6-0 to a very good Old Wulfrunians side after going one down in the first minute and conceding another three before half-time. They were better in the second half but Wulfs got two more.

Perton Juniors 0 Halas Hawks Dynamos 6

The under-12 Dynamos came away from Perton with a 6-0 win courtesy of goals from Chris Priest (2), Jack Blunt (2), Sam Price and Jake Saxton.

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Inspirational living at affordable prices COUSINS' PHENOMENAL MULTI MILLION POUND STOCK CLEARANCE

Cousins have been closed -

- But they reopen this Friday at 10am in time for their multi million pound clearance event. New departments opening within the store mean you can save up to 70% on a massive range of furniture, carpets, beds and homewares.

For 3 Days, this Friday Saturday & Sunday

Cousins have been closed all week, because staff have been working around the clock handling vast amounts of surplus and incoming stock from suppliers, which is arriving daily to the stores - all price tickets have been reduced to a fraction of the normal price for this one off clearance event.

EXTENSIVE REFURBISHMENT

Cousins will be undergoing extensive refurbishments in order to accommodate new lifestyle departments, brand new Stressless galleries, extensions to their homeware departments and also many new furniture collections.

To make room for these exciting ranges of accessories and furniture, they must clear existing stock immediately. As a result of this, you can take advantage of huge savings and massive reductions on furniture, carpets, beds and homewares.

NEW DEPARTMENTS

The new lifestyle departments

will give added inspiration by showcasing the latest in "retro chic" and "vintage revival."

Managing Director Robert Shotton is keen to clear the existing stock to allow the new departments to flourish." From big brand name sofas to home accessories, they are all on the clearance list as Cousins must empty their warehouses to complete the refurbishment plans."

ALL ITEMS MUST GO

"We need to clear this stock as soon as possible and it really is a case of everything must go," said Robert. "We have recognised that people come

to Cousins for the full shopping experience, which includes being able to purchase cushions and accessories to compliment their new sofa or dining table.

The extensions to our homewares department incorporate exciting new products such as beanbags, electrical and flora.

However, the only way to make room for these new additions to the Cousins range is to clear the existing stock we have."

UNBEATABLE PRICES

Following successful buying trips to Cologne, Paris, Milan, Singapore and Shanghai, Cousins are introducing many new furniture collections to their already extensive stock. To accommodate the new season ranges, they have massively reduced the prices of the existing stock, some by up to 70% for a limited time only.

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Some of the massive reductions available include a saving of more than £1650 on a Derwent suite plus a leather bedstead for £149. With lamps, pictures, rugs, carpets and their complete range of accessories discounted to a fraction

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There's new stock arriving throughout the three days, with many one off bargains that won't be repeated as well as leading brand name items, for immediate delivery.

"We are delighted to be able to offer our customers even more choice than ever before" said Robert. "These are some of the biggest savings we have ever offered and I am sure that people will be flocking in to snap up a bargain."

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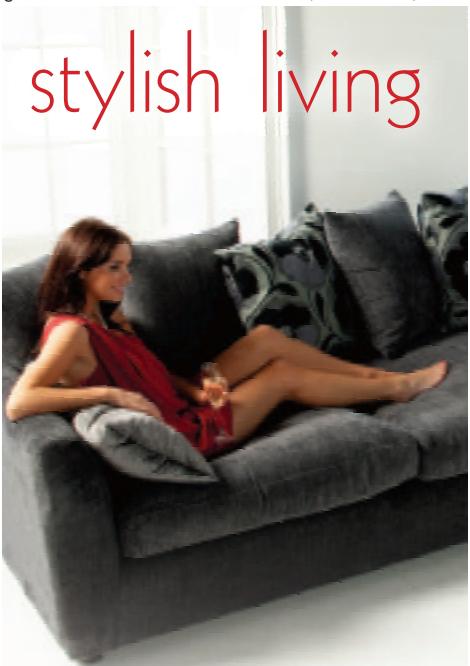
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Derwent Camille Grand sofa and snuggler sofa	£2649	£997		Victoria Double Metal Bedstead	£399	£99
Columbine high back 3 seater suite in chenille fabric	£1409	£516		Tempur King Size Mattress	£1949	£899
Parker Knoll Gatsby high back 3 seater sofa and chair	£1999	£872		King Size Leather Canterbury Headboard	£129	£45
Pocket sprung high back Brandon chairs in easycare fabric	£399	£94		Single White Label Mattress	£229	£40
Tetrad Leather & fabric corner group with complimentary accent cushions	£1649	£733		King Size Pocketsprung Saturn Drawer Divan set	£799	£249
Leather Dakota 3 seater and 2 seater sofa in chocolate	£1599	£528		Leather Saville Double bedstead	£699	£149
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